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INSIDE EIGHT PAGES

Ross returns to seal Hebron deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

US SPECIAL Middle East peace talks envoy Dennis Ross arrives today in a bid to shepherd the final stages of the protracted Hebron talks to a successful conclusion in

the coming days.
Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he hopes the agreement will be initialled Wednesday. One US official said Washington is heartened by what they call Egypt's "support for the Palestinians wrapping up the talks," in contrast to past opposi-

Arafat returned from Cairo last night for talks with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to finalize Hebron security issues. The two were to meet at the Erez Checkpoint beginning at 10:30

Earlier in the day, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in Jerusalem to draft a protocol that will allow the Jewish settlement some control over building in its area and will limit the height of Arab building in the immediate

Palestinians went out of their way to say nothing had yet been finalized, and Arafat said in Cairo that all issues were still open. But he has used this as a tactic to add weight to the Palestinians' demands in the past. PA officials have privately admitted this, and no major changes are expected between now and signing the final

Officials in Jerusalem sharply deny reports of unnamed Palestinian officials suggesting that Israel will give dates on all three further pullbacks. One such official said that Israel would only be providing a definite date for the

A US official said last night that if the past is a guide, an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement would not be complete without a pimalistic last minute crisis, so each side can convince skeptical colleagues that everything has

been tried. The one issue that Israelis and Palestinians have not found a joint formula on concerns a Palestinian official presence at the Machpela Cave. For security reasons, the previous government demanded exclusive control there, fearing that divided control could only encourage rather than discourage incidents. A joint mobile patrol based at the Cave may resolve the

Arafat is now trying to secure a Palestinian presence at the Sachpela Cave in direct talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, since it is not to be found in the Hebron guidelines of the Oslo 2 agreement.

The US official expressed mnoyance with Palestinians, who in their words, "are trying to stopen issues which we have already closed. This has been their tactic for years, namely to use the expectation of an agreement to win last-minute concessions."

A US document spelling out the (Continued on Page 9)



Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz (left) and Trade Union Department head Shlomo Shani talk to reporters yesterday after Shani was released from police custody.

Left, Right MKs may abstain in Hebron no-confidence vote

LIAT COLLINS

MKS from both ends of the political spectrum are threatening to abstain in today's no-confidence vote over the Hebron

Moledet filed the motion last Netanyahn is scheduled to meet with coalition MKs before the vote to persuade them to support him in the plenum vote.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said his factioo's MKs will abstain because, "although Meretz has no confidence whatsoever in this government, it cannot join Moledet in its efforts to torpedo

the redeployment."
Labor MKs are scheduled to meet this morning to discuss how to vote: Yesterday, party leader Shimon Peres and faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen met and said they would advise the faction to abstain.

"This is the first opportunity to topple the government, but on the other hand the faction is committed to the peace process. The faction will demand that the Hebron agreement be submitted study it and form an opinion."

Cohen said. MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) said the party should vote against the government, even over an issue like the Hehron agreement, if there is a real chance that it could bring the government down. She said Labor would win if new elections were held and then it could earry on the peace process.

MK Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher) said he will vote against the government in the no-confidence motion unless the prime minister promises to bring the Hebron agreement to a vote in

Homeless man dies from exposure

A HOMELESS man in his twenties was found dead of exposure yesterday in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market.

The man had refused to go to a hospital for treatment three times during the past few days, Magen David Adom spokesman Shuki

MDA ambulances were called to the market three times to treat the man in recent days, and were called again yesterday, but it was too late and he was pronounced dead.

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- Israel Broadcasting Authority, except for news broadcasts WIZO and Na'amat day care centers
- Magen David Adom and the Fire and Rescue services will operate on a Shabbat schedule Employee bus drivers

Histadrut to escalate strike

THE Histadrut plans to escalate its concerted campaign of scheduled selective strikes in different sectors of the economy today, after throwing the country into chaos vesterday afternoon with wildcat strikes said to cause considerable losses both in financial terms and in terms of the country's economic prestige.

Numerous sectors of the economy are to be effected as of 6 this morning (see box).

Airports are to be spared today, after 60 scheduled flights were disrupted due to yesterday afternoon's sudden walkout, hor on the heels of a strike last Thursday (see story, Page 2). The school system also will be unaffected today. At 4 p.m. the Histadrut top brass will meet to decide where strike action will hit tomorrow.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor lashed out at the Histadrut and accused it of sponsoring a political campaign against the government. The employers urged Netanyahu last night to seek back-to-work orders and threatened to withhold deductions from employees' wages which constitute the chief source of income for the Histadrut.

The spark which ostensibly led to the wildcat action at midday yesterday was the detention of Histadrut Trade Department chairman Shlomo Shani, who had gone underground over the weekend after the Tel Aviv Labor Court ruled him in contempt. This followed his viola-Thursday's strikes in the ports and railroads system to three hours.

Yesterday Shani was pieked up by police after he showed up at a Haifa Chemicals demonstration. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz immediately ordered employees in all sectors of the economy to walk out over what he charged was the first ever attempt in the country to infringe upon the right to strike. His call was heeded at Ben-Gurioo Airport, where it caused chaos, at banks, the train system, radio and TV, several private plants and, for 20 minutes at the close of the business day, even in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

> More strike coverage, Page 2

This came oo top of scheduled strikes by Electric Cooperation employees, Bezeq and the ports, where the work stoppage is enter-ing its second week and causing

particularly great losses.

The wildcat side of the dispute ended some five hours after it began, wheo the Tel Aviv Labor Court agreed to let Shani go. Earlier in the day there were demonstrations in front of the Histadrut offices at Tel Aviv's Arlozoroff Street, complete with burning tires and the halting of

traffie on this major artery. Netanyaho branded the strike "blatantly political, irresponsible and utterly without any grounds or justification." He added that the country does not belong to the Histadrut, contrary to what it may think. The state is not its private

Representatives of employers' (Continued on Page 9)

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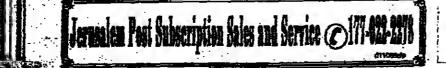
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PM, settlers give conflicting account of meeting

THREE Hebron settlement leaders met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday. One of them, Ya'acov Ben-Taryah, said the delegation left the meting feeling like the biblical Joseph pleading for help on the edge of the pit full of scorpions, and hearing his brothers respond to him: "Go

The Prime Minister's Office, in contrast, released a statement after the meeting saying that the delegation, which also include Yeshivat Shavei Hebron head Moshe Bleicher and Hillel Horowitz, came to "show support for Netanyahu and to express their concern for the settle-

"The prime minister made it clear to them that the IDF is not leaving Hebron, but only redeploying, and that the IDF forces will remain in the Jewish section of the city and will continue to provide security for the city's Jews," the state-

We left the meeting with a difficult feeling," Ben-Taryah said. "Not against the man, but against what is happening

Ben-Taryah said the group discussed their fears with Netanyahu, and that he listened and said, "He is trying." Ben-Taryah quoted Netanyahu as saying he can not do any-

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thing about what the settlement claims are plans for released Palestinian prisoners to move into houses the Palestinian Authority is renovating directly adjacent to the Avraham Aviau compound.

"What good is a joint pairol on a hill going to do me," Ben-Taryah asked, "if released murderers are gong to be living three meters from my window?" Meanwhile, Match Ma'amatz, the group that has orga-

nized dozens of protests against the Labor government and the Oslo agreements over the past four years, said yesterday it will not currently protest against the govern-"This is our government," said Ya'acov Novick, head of

Mateh Ma'amatz. "He [Netanyahu] wants what we want. He is not like [former prime minister Shimon] Peres, who gave Arafat everything he wanted."

Novick said he did not want to "speculate" when asked if the decision not to protest, and not to join a call coming from other right-wing groups for volunteers to go to Hebron in expectation of the redeployment, is based on information

that the signing of the agreement may not take place this

Novick distanced himself from the ads appearing on Arutz 7, under the headline "Draft notice: We are returning to the struggle for Eretz Yisrael," calling for the names, addresses and phone numbers of volunteers willing to take part in protest actions.

David Wilder, a spokesman for the Hebron settlement, said one plan the settlement is considering is to bring hundreds of people to Hebron, not to confront the IDF, but rather to provide moral support and add to the sense of security for the 54 families living in the city.

"If there is a signing," Wilder said, "things here will change. It is important for people to come and stay as long

as they can, to show support to the community."

Meanwhile, two firebombs were thrown near Beit Hadassah yesterday, and two more firebombs were hurled at

an IDF patrol on the Halhoul bypass road, as a wave of fire-bombs in the area continues. No injuries or damage were

Authority official was set alight in Hebron yesterday, about 100 meters from the Avraham Avinu compound.

Zo Artzenu calls to indict Peretz for sedition

ZO Artzenu head Moshe Feiglin, on trial for sedition for his part in organizing a political protest last year that blocked a number of the country's roads, called on the attorney general to start legal proceedings against Amir Peretz for his part in closing down much of the country yesterday.

In a letter to Michael Ben-Yair, Feiglin wrote, "I am honored to file a criminal complaint against the Histadrut general secretary for sedition and breaking criminal laws with the general strike, contravening the law that obligates a cooling down period [before a strike].

"I do not need to explain my complaint," Feiglin wrote, "and I have the honor of referring you to the state's attorney who accused me and my colleagues of acts that do not come close to those of Peretz, who shut down the entire country, caused billions of shekels of damage, led to an amount of suffering to the majority of citi-

zens in the state that is impossible to estimate - and all this without any real reason, only because of a power struggle and for political

Feiglin, on trial in Jemsalem's Magistrates court with Shann-l Sackett, wrote that if Ben-Yair does not open criminal proceedings against Perctz, "I will bring the complaint, as an example of the rule of law under your guidance, in the court where the charges of sedition against me are being heard."

Moledet MK Benny Elon, who was indicted with Feiglin and Sackett but whose trial has been postponed because in the mean time he won a Knesset seat and its accompanying immunity, said he is "disgusted by the hypocritical march of the "defenders of the law' who are encouraging breaking the law, contempt of court and organized sedition in bringing down the government outside of

Finance Committee approves end to women's tax credit

THE Knesset Finance Committee approved the elimination of the half tax-credit for married women yesterday, but it is still not clear the government can get the proposal through the plenum.

The committee also approved the 1997 budget yesterday, with only minor amendments.

The cancellation of the half taxcredit, which is expected to save the government NIS 270 million next year, was approved 9-8 oo a nearly straight party-line vote.

The vote angered women's groups and oppositioo MKs. "This is a government that hates said Rafi Elui (Labor). And Na'amat, the women's hranch of the Histadrut, repeated the exact same statement.

The only coalition MK to vote against the cut was Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), who said that

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while he personally supports cancelling the credit, he received orders from his party to vote against it on the grounds that it would hurt some lower-income women.

We're also bothered by the fact that they told us there was no money [for social issues]... but there seems to be NIS 1 billion for all kinds of coalition agreements," Kleiner said, adding that this seems to be the real reason for the sudden decision to cancel the tax credit.

The remainder of the coalition stayed with the government, even though some were personally opposed to the proposal Silvan Shalom (Likud), who heads the coalition in the committee, said he thought cancellation of the credit was wrong. However, he said, the

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Daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and David Edel,

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HYMAN (Hymie) KATZ

has passed away.

The funeral will take place today,

Monday, December 30,

at the Yarkon Cemetery at 12 noon.

Son-in-law, Itzik

Wife, Betty

Grandchildren, Sian and Alon

Sister, Sonia

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Daughters, Sharon and Elaine

Sadly missed by his:

overnment only came up with this idea to replace some of the proposals the committee mixed last week - such as a planned cut in child allowances and a planned hike in co-payment for medicines - and there is a limit to how often the committee can say no, if it is serious about reducing the budget

Whether this coalition discipline will hold in the plenum, however, is still not clear. In addition to Gesher, women MKs such as Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) and Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya) are also threatening to vote against the measure.

The NIS 190b. budget itself, meanwhile, passed with the support of all coalition members, 10-7. Only a few minor changes were introduced into the budget. One was that NIS 25m. of the Housing Ministry's budget will be specifically earmarked for the construction of rental bousing; another was that the Education Ministry's budget for assisting dormitory students will continue to have a subcategory for haredi schools (NIS 49m.), as it has in past years. rather than this money being subsumed in the general domittory

The only change with budgetary implications was the decision to restore NIS 10m. which had been cut from the budget for rent subsidies for families with many children, since the religious parties, which are the main beneficiaries of this aid, objected to the cut. The additional money will apparently come from the Housing Ministry's budgetary reserve.

"After long months of work, the state budget has been approved with only a few changes," Shalom said. "This budget is different from its predecessors, and heralds a difficult year, a year of [economic] recovery in the hope that this will return the economy to the path of growth."

Opposition MKs painted a different picture.

There is still NIS 2b. that does not exist in the budget," said Avraham Shohat (Labor), citing items such as coalition promises to the haredim. "And of course the 'cut' [in the budget] is to a large extent new taxation rather than a

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said the exact sum that will be added to the haredim's budget has not yet been determined.

CLARIFICATION .

THE report on the Jewish National Fund in yesterday's paper referred solely to the JNF of America.



Morocco's royal court ophthalinologist, Prof. Mustafa Rail (right), looks on as Prof. David Ben-Ezra of Hallassah University Hospital examines Idan Varda yesterday. Rafi, who heads a 400-bed department at the University of Rabat, is here for five days to discuss joint research and treatment projects. Ben-Ezra, a senior Hadassah ophthalinologist who was born in Morocco, invited Rafi to visit Pafi said he was gratified by the large purples of Araba height and for the large purples. to visit. Rafi said he was gratified by the large number of Arabs being cared for in the hospital's eye department and in the new Mother and Child Center in Ein Kerem. They constitute about half the patients at the center, and 30% of those being treated in the (text-Judy Siegel; photo: Avi Hayour) hospital's eye department.

NEWSLINE DR. AVRAHAM FRIEDMAN

Friedman is a labor-relations expert at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

Are the current strikes, called by the Histadrut over the jailing of trade union head Shlomo hani, unprecedented? The labor unrest we are seeing is

exceptional, different from the relations between the general labor federation and governments in the past. The Netanyahu government views the Histadrut as the opposition. But the government should be aware that the Histadrot is not of one political voice; perhaps 40 percent to 50% of the works committees represent the Likud. And the government also is making a mistake by presuming that the labor federation has completely lost its vitality and cannot be a partner.

Is the head-to-head conflict due to the inexperience of govcrnment leaders, as well as a loss of self-confidence among officials of the pared-down Histadrut?

The government is showing a lack of confidence, which leads to an out-and-out struggle. With the government's unprecedentedly putting a union leader in prison for not showing up at a labor court hearing. the other side takes an extreme position. Instead, the government must find a way to moderate the dispute and sit down and talk with the workers' representatives.

How much of a factor is the Histadrut's desire to show who's boss in a confrontation with the new government, after the labor federation itself has become much smaller in membership and financial resources?

Under Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon, the federation did separate itself from Kupat Holim Clalit and Hevrat Haovdim, and this forced it to become more active in fighting for workers. There are now some 500,000 Histadrut members and 200,000 others who pay organization fees; this is still a large chunk of the 1.25 million salaried workers in the economy, but considerably less than the 90% of all workers that used to be in the Histadrut.

Shani should not have been served with court orders as an individual; be represents an organization. This was an extor, undoubtedly due to government inexperience. What is needed now is action by intermediaries whether they be academicians, politicians or others - to create a breather so that neither side can claim a victory.

Does the public support the

I think more of the public sup-port the strike than oppose it. If they were against it, they would continue working. Nothing would happen to them if they disregarded the Histadrut's call.

Passengers' nightmare continues at B-G Airport HAIM SHAPIRO

THE scenes of disorder and unhappiness which prevailed at Ben-Gurion Airport on Thursday were, if anything, intensified yesterday as passengers waited anxiously for their flights with no assurance whatsoever that planes would take off any time in the near

Some waited stoically, while others milled about. A few were reduced to weeping. However, passengers were generally quiet, with no scenes of shouting.

The strike, called without warning at 11:30 a.m., was lifted just as suddenly at 5 p.m. However, during the six-and-a-half hour period, 27 scheduled flights failed to take off and airport officials said it would take many hours to absorb the backlog. They said they would service and slot planes according to when they had landed.

Airports Authority spokesman Yechiel Amitai said that during much of the time between 11:30 a.m. and midnight, planes were scheduled to take off every five minutes, leaving little time to slot additional flights in between.

As in Thursday's strike, arriving planes were not serviced and the baggage was not removed until the strike ended. Thus planes on the tarmac which were scheduled to leave could not take off. A few airlines had to cancel flights altogether since the flight crews, wait-

ing on call, would have exceeded their allowable number of working

"We have had to tell passengers that they can either wait here or go home and wait for an announcement to return, without knowing what to advise them. We have no control and we can't even make a forecast," Amitai said.

As he spoke, the works committee suddenly authorized workers to service five charter flights waiting to go to Europe. Within minutes, passengers who had been waiting listlessly in line or sitting in airport restaurants were suddenly on their feet, anxious to check in. During the strike, some passengers had actually gone through the security checks, carried out by workers who are temporary employees of the Airports Aothority, and thus not under union rule.

However, the airline-staffs had been unable to check in the passengers for fear that the baggage would hopelessly jam the convey-

or systems.

El Al spokesman Nachman flights had been delayed affecting 1.150 passengers. During the strike, he said, another six flights had landed, forcing passengers either to leave without their bags or to wait two to five hours for their luggage.

Four die on roads

FOUR people were killed and almost 150 others were injured in over 90 accidents yesterday. Roland Hilovsanso, 38, of Tel Aviv, was killed when he lost control of his car on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway. A car hat Rothschild Yisraelov, 55, of Tel Aviv, while he was crossing Science Har Zion in Tel Aviv. He died immediately. In Haifa, another pedestrian was killed while

ltim.

Third Way threatens to leave coalition if Jordan Valley land is given to PA

IF the government decides to cede to the Palestinians a 380 dunam plot in the Jordan Valley called the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm, the Third Way way will leave the government, MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) warned yesterday.

Lubotsky made this statement after be and fellow Third Way MKs Emanuel Zissman and Yehuda Harel went to the site, even though it has been declared a closed military zone, and worked

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Lubotsky said.

"In our map, all the empty areas where Jews have settled should stay in our hands," he said, explaining that these areas include the Jordan Valley and the Judean

Lubotsky said the three MKs went to the site yesterday because of the fear that with "all the attention on Hebron, there may be a

deal that will give the Palestmians rights over [this] area."

Lubotsky said that ceding this land - which Israel maintains belongs to Moshav Masua, but which the Palestinians say is theirs according to the Oslo accords - "would cut the Jordan Valley in half" and give the Palestinians a coveted foothold in the region.

crossing the street. RAMAT BEIT

TOURO COLLEGE

mourns the loss of

EUGENE HOLLANDER

visionary founder of

Touro College New York, philanthropist and generous supporter of Jewish causes and institutions,

and extends its condolences to his wife

Monica May the merite of their many arts of cherity and

Panel to probe scam involving immigrants' savings

HUNDREDS of recent immigrants from the CIS have come a step closer to recovering their life savings, which were lost when they tried to transfer the money here to build their lives anew. Minister Binyamin Netanyahu discussed their plight with ministers and top government officials yesterday and ordered a committee established to examine all aspects of the prob-

The committee, headed by the justice minister and including the finance and absorption ministers, is to present its recommendations within 30 days.

Netanyahu expressed his concern for the immigrants, who he said were innocent vietims.

Vera Gutkina, spokeswoman for more than 500 Russian immigrants who were victims of an apparent scam, expressed satisfaction at the prime minister's move.

"This is what we've waited all this time to hear: that the government is taking our problem seri**ESTHER HECHT**

ously," she said.

The immigrants lost thousands of dollars each when they tried to transfer money here through Israsov, a company to which aliya counselors referred them. Many of the counselors operated in conjunction with the Liaison Bureau, which is under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

A group of Ukrainian immi-grants lost their money in the same way to a company operating in Ukraine. There are additional victims from throughout the CIS.

Both the Russian and the Ukrainian groups have filed civil suits against the companies involved and their heads, the Jewish Agency and the state of Israel. But legal action could drag on for years, and meanwhile the immigrants' situation is desper-

MK Naomi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Aliya and Absorption

Committee, last week submitted a private member's bill calling for the establishment of a committee to determine compensation, to be paid by the state, for all immigrants from the CIS who lost money in similar schemes. Gutkina said other MKs have added their signatures to the hill and all that is needed now is cabinet support.

Gutkina and Victor Gopman, ehairman of the Russian group, met with Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky last week to enlist his support. According to Gutkina, his

response was very positive.

But yesterday's action by the prime minister was a crucial turning point in the immigrants' strug-

"Since a vote is usually taken about 45 days after a hill is presented, the report by the committee [appointed by Netanyahu] will be just in time," Gutkina said. "I hope it will give the cabinet a basis for supporting the hill."



Skater Christian Lambert performs on the frozen fountains in front of the Eiffel Tower yesterday. Dozens of Parisians took advantage of musually cold weather to enjoy the ice.

Peaceful end to Peru crisis seems possible

LIMA (Reuter) - A peaceful end to Peru's 12-day-old hostage crisis looked more possible yesterday after the government and Marxist rebels still holding 83 VIP captives softened "no compromise" positions and met face-to-face for the first time.

President Alberto Fujimori sent his mediator, Education Minister Domingo Palermo, for a long meeting on Saturday with rebel leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini inside the besieged Japanese ambassador's resi-

The fruit of that meeting was immediate: the release of 20 hostages, leaving 83 behind.

With the exception of several 1993 meetings Fujimori had with Abimael Guzman, the jailed leader of the Shining Path guerrilla move-ment, no government official has held direct talks with Peruvian insurgents in 16 years of conflict.

In a statement read by one of the newly-freed captives, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas expressed a willingness "to withdraw from the occupied residence by way of dialogue."

Police block Belgrade protest march

BELGRADE (Reuter) - Serbian security police blocked a march by 50,000 people in Belgrade yesterday in the 42nd straight day of protests against election fraud. The protest column was intercepted after it poured into Belgrade's main pedestrian mall following fiery speeches by leaders of the Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition in Republic Square.

Riot police were enforcing a ban on street marches imposed by the ruling Socialist party (SPS) after a December 24 riot involving Zajedno protesters and government loyalists brought into Belgrade to show support for President-Slobodan Milosevic.

Police created two cordons to box in demonstrators. Protesters react ed, as before, by shouting "Murderers" and "Dogs" at police, barking for good measure. A carnival atmosphere set in with some demonstrators joining bands in Serbian folk dances.

NEWS IN BRIEF '

Algerian militants cut throats of 28 people ALGIERS (AP) - A band of militants cut off the roads and phone lines to a small village yesterday and killed 28 people there with long knives and axes, the government said.

The region around Ain Defla, 145 kilometers south of the capital, Algiers, has been a frequent site of random attacks by Islamic militants. The killings at Ain Defla came hours before a car bomh exploded in a suburb of Algiers, injuring at least 20 people in the third such bombing in the past week, authorities said.

Greek ship capsizes, 20 people missing ATHENS, Greece (AP) – A Greek ship capsized in the Aegean Sea in storm-driven waters and rescue workers, who had found four bodies, said they doubted that any of the 20 people aboard had survived, Merchant Marine Ministry officials said yesterday.

Ministry official Orianthe Koundouroyanni said rescue efforts would continue to try to locate the missing people, among them the wife and 10-year-old daughter of the first engineer and the wife of a crew member, all believed to be trapped within the cement carrier Dystos. She said that six divers entered the Dystos and found the bodies of four crew members, which were not identified further. near the dining room. Divers ended their search as darkness set in and as the Dystos was towed to shallow waters about four nautical miles to the west.

Vandals ravage Jewish cemetery in Rome ROME (AP) - More than 300 people stood in freezing rain in a Jewish cemetery yesterday for a special service after more than a dozen gravestones were attacked by vandals, who left bebind Nazi swastikas and the phrase from a concentration camp gate. Headstones were toppled and the Star of David and name plates were pried off. The vandals also bung four swastikas from a wire and wrote "Arbeit macht frei."

MKs petition court: Tel Aviv burial society needs manager

THE Religious Affairs Ministry should appoint a manager for the Tel Aviv hevra kadisha (buria) society), to straighten out the financial mess in the organization, two MKs demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yester-

day.

MKs Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) and Yona Yahav (Labor) noted that the hurial society is a government-funded monopoly which provides a crucial service to some 1.5 million people in 11 cities in the Tel Aviv area. As such, they said, the government has an obligation to see that the organiza-

tion is run properly. However, the organization racked up a NIS 328 million deficit in the first half of the year, due largely to wildly excessive zation has engaged in a number of

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salaries, the petition said. As of March 1995, for instance, the average wage paid by the society was some NIS 26,000 a month. In 1993, the chairman's salary cost the society NIS 1.3 million a year, a half-time comptroller cost NIS 413,000 for a year, an ordinary teller cost NIS 384,000, a driver cost NIS 270,000, and a messen-ger cost NIS 212,000, the petition

In addition, the petition said, all employees are paid 15 monthly salaries a year when it is a leap year according to the Hebrew calendar, and 14 monthly salaries a year when it is not

Furthermore, it said, the organi-

other corrupt financial practices. For instance, money earmarked for development work on cemeteries was instead distributed among the employees, and one of the senior managers was given a loan out of organization funds which has never been repaid.

Previous attempts to get the company to rehabilitate itself have failed, the petition added. A professional manager hired to reform the organization was recently kicked out. Therefore, it said, the only solution is for the ministry to appoint someone to do the job.

Since repeated requests to the ministry have not elicited a positive response, the two MKs petitioned the High Court, the petition concluded.

MDA warns public against hypothermia

atures, Magen David Adom yes-terday urged the public to protect themselves - especially the elder-ly and infants - against hypother-

Every year, MDA ambulance staffers take dozens of them to emergency rooms for treatment due to exposure to the cold.

The risk is high especially among the homeless, the elderly and babies exposed to severe cold and moisture. Some cases even end in the patient's death. Those whose body temperature drops

JUDY SIEGEL

below 35° Centigrade are especially in danger, as the cold can affect the brain, heart and skeletal

The initial signs of hypothermia are a feeling of burning or pain in the affected skin, which turns bright red. However, long exposure to cold makes the skin turn a wax-like white, and as a result of affected nerves, the victim may not feel any pain at all.

In cases of hypothermia, MDA

should be called immediately. The victim should be brought immediately to a warm, protected place, and any wet garments should be removed, and he should be wrapped in warm blankets for gradual warming.

Cold hands or feet can be warmed with a healthy person's warm hands if necessary. Don't give him anything hot to drink unless he is conscious; never give the victim alcohol or let him smoke, as these would cause the blood vessels to contract even more, MDA advised.

OPEN LETTER

To Minister Avigdor Kahalani

Before the elections, Netanyahu promised that we would not withdraw from Hebron. He signed an agreement with Habad that no part of Eretz Yisrael would be given up. "Agreements have to be honored," he says, but he means apparently,

only agreements with the Arabs. In the Knesset, Netanyahu has praised "the Golan pioneers" - but he has promised that, during his present term as prime minister, he will sign a peace agreement with Syria.

Dear Minister Kahalani

Can't you read the handwriting on the wall? First withdrawal from Hebron, and then the Golan Heights!

In the Jordan Valley, Netanyahu-Mordechai-Levy are transferring the "Yugoslav farm" to Arafat. Dear Minister Kahalani

Can't you read the map? Hebron, the Golan Heights, and the Jordan Valley share the same destiny.

You should know that:

With the same pen stroke with which you cast off Hebron, and discard another slice of Judea and Samaria, you also subject the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley to the same fate!

Cut and Send......

Dear Member of the Third Way,

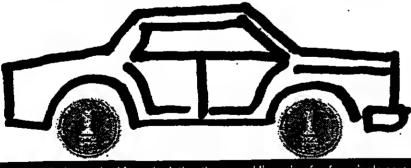
The front line of defense of the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley is in Hebron! Write, phone, or fax Minister Kahalani, Tel. 02-530-8500; Fax. 02-581-1832, and Third Way members of the Knesset Or write to us - and we'll forward your letter!

Contributions and comments to: P.O.B. 18608, Jerusalem 91184, Fax. 02-536-1852

* Professors for a Strong Israel * Gamla Shall Not Fall Again * The Committee for the Abolition of the Autonomy * Zo Artzeinu

Ministry of Transport

A New Year - A New Method for Calculating for the Annual Vehicle License Fee



From January 1, 1997, the method for calculating the annual licensing fee for private cars changes

How does it work?

Till now, the fee was based on engine size. From January 1997, the fee will be determined by parameters that are technically more appropriate. This method has been in operation for 1996 and later model private cars, since April 1996.

In 1997, vehicle owners will receive a license renewal form, on which a fee group is Indicated. There are six groups, corresponding to vehicle values:

Every vehicle has been assigned to one of these groups, in accordance with a number of parameters: make, engine size, year of manufacture as given on the vehicle license, and the price of an identical or comparable new vehicle. No account has been taken of the value of used vehicles, as given in used-car price lists.

How many grades are there in each group?

How filely glades are alore in seeing seep.								
Group	Age of Vehicle Up to 3 years old	Age of Vehicle 4 - 8 years old	Age of Vehicle Over 6 years old					
1	667	600	542					
2	844	759	684					
3	1020	919	827					
4	1395	1256	1130					
5	1979	1782	1603					
6	2820	2397	2037					

What else should you know?

NIS101 Is added to the fee, for the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

* For a vehicle with a diesel engine, there is an additional charge of NIS2141. License fees paid in 1996 were paid, in accordance with the method in force before this

Spokesperson, Ministry of Transport change was introduced.

A Message to the People of Israel

When Gamla and Masada fell 2000 years ago, Jerusalem fell

Today Hebron, tomorrow Jerusalem

You have almost lost the battle for Hebron, and as you back away from your right, and your decision to build homes for Jews on Jewish owned land next to the Mount of Olives (Ras el-Amud), we see that even the red lines within Jerusalem are being whittled away.

World-wide, the calls are growing for the redivision of your Holy City

We disassociate ourselves from the un-Christian statement placed by clerics as a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* on December 21, 1996, in which they call on President Bill Clinton to pressure Israel into sharing sovereignty over Jerusalem, the historical and spiritual capital of the Jewish people.

It is inconceivable that Christian clerics should show more concern for the claims of the Arab/Islamic world than for what is written in their own Bible concerning Jerusalem. They could not quote even one verse to support their call for the redivision of Israel's capital.

Together with millions of Christians around the world, we want to say to your regathered nation: "Do not lose heart!

God has not brought you back to your land from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:12) just to have you surrender your biblical and historical rights, and the security of the remnant of your nation, to those who have demonstrated their hatred, and their desire to destroy you.

You have been brought back to be a light to all of the nations And a light to the nations you shall be!"

We stand in solidarity with you

Thus says the Lord GOD:

"I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 11:17)

"I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem." (Zechariah 8:8)

and

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

(Isaiah 66:13)

Jerusalem[®]

The City of Judah (2 Chronicles 25:28)
The City of David (2 Samuel 5:6-7)
The City of God (Psalm 46:4)

The International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem
Bridges for Peace
Jerusalem Vistas - Israel Vision
Americans for a Safe Israel
Zion's Gate International
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American Academic Alliance for Israel
Christian Friends of Israel Community Development Foundation

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The Jewish Horizons Radio Network
Wake Up Ministries
Operation Tarshish
A Praise in the Earth, Inc.
Jewish Action Committee
Wake Up Coalition
Traditional Values Coalition

The good, the bad, and Demi

HIS will probably be remembered as the year when Hollywood blew up White House. With Independence Day, that is, the systematic detonation of the earth's major metropolitan ceoters by evil extraterrestrials (and an army of skilled special-effects experts) unfolded before the eyes of millions of viewers worldwide. making Roland Emmerich's techno-blockbuster the most profitable movie of all time. ID was far from the best film of the year, neither was it the worst. It was, simply, the biggest.

What follows is my list of the 10 best and worst flicks screened commercially in Israel in the last 12 months. It isn't exhaustive (I haven't seen every single film released), but it does provide my own high and low picks from the 130 or so new movies that I have watched during this last calendar year. In no particular order:

The best

BILLED by distributors as a kiddie pie, Chris Noonan's delightful barnyard fable, Babe, was actually one of the more emotionally sophisticated movies of 1996. Using state-of-the-art computer techniques and lots of literal animal emotion, the filmmakers managed to create a world in which spirited dialogue between pigs, geese and dogs seemed utterly oormal.

In Heat, Michael Mann's brutal but fascinating cops-and-robbers movie, Al Pacino and Robert De Niro faced off as a dedicated LA police detective and a ruthless professional criminal - enemies and soul mates whose inevitable final confrontation gave the threehour-long film the obsessive quality of a great prize fight, pitched toward the knock-out punch.

Pacino also starred in City Hall, a knotty political drama about the inner workings of the New York City mayor's office. Harold Becker directed in a gritty, straight-ahead style and a team of aecomplished screenwriters **ADINA HOFFMAN**

(including former NYC deputy mayor Keo Lipper) offered a complex and unsensationalized view of what really goes on in the backrooms frequented by the Big Apple's head boncho. (Pacino's directing debut, Looking for Richard was a close contender for this top-ten list, which gives the actor the stellar record of three out of four fine films in a year: the syrupy Two Bits was his only slip-

Sense and Sensibility/Emma: Both Aog Lee and Douglas McGrath skillfully avoided costume-drama stuffiness in their respective adaptations of these Jane Austen novels.

They also found different ways to convey the wit, drama and delicate behavioral onances that fill the almost 200-year-old hooks. And several important new taleots emerged from the films: Sense won actress Emma Thompson a screeowriting well-deserved Oscar and introduced levely Kate Winslet to the world. Emma is sure to make Gwyneth Paltrow a

Albert Finney gave a devastat-ing performance in English director Suri Krishnamma's small, sad A Man of No Importance, about a middle-aged Oscar Wilde enthusiast who discovers the hard way that life often imitates art.

The most interesting new film noir in years, Carl Franklin's smooth genre flick, Devil in a Blue Dress, was based on a Walter Mosley mystery novel about a black World War II vet (Denzel Washington) who finds himself dragged into an elaborate plot involving several white candidates for Los Angeles mayor. Racial tensions added a startling twist to the standard potboiler out-

Roald Dahl's 1961 childreo's book, James and the Giant Peach, came to life in director Henry Selick's fantastical stop-motion animation about a lonely little boy who befriends a pack of

overgrown garden bugs and embarks with them on a fruity

The gentlest and most satisfying of brothers Joel and Ethan Coen's movies to date, Fargo was a dryly funny little murder mystery, set in the snowbound emptiness of Minnesota and starring the hilarious Frances McDormand as a bugely pregnant rural chief of police.

In English director Michael Winterbottom's inspired first

Lone Star, John Sayles's latest and richest film, presented a roiling novelistic portrait of a small Texas border town where history and the present are both alive and

And, finally, the winner of this year's Grand Prix at Cannes, Danish director Lars Von Trier's Breaking the Waves is a beaotiful, horrifying movie about the religious and sexual suffering of an innoceot young Scottisb woman (played miraculously by Emily Watson) whose new husband is paralyzed in an oil-rig accident. Von Trier's film is not only the most morally ambitious film of 1996, it's one of the rawest and most sensual. (A full review will appear next Monday.)

The worst

THE Scarlet Letter: Otherwise known as Demi Does Salem, Roland Joffe's soft porn, politicalcorrect travesty of the great ly correct travesty of the great Hawthorne novel was a howler from start to finish.

Striptease wasn't much better. This time Moore earned \$12.5 million for taking off most of her clothes and doing ber aerobic exercises. It wasn't sexy, it wasn't funny. It was plain old-fashioned

An especially ogly Schwarze-oegger vehiele, Eraser worked like one of the high-power assault weapons it glorified, by blasting us till we were limp.

The Substitute did the same, but much, much more cynically:

Tom Berenger starred as a mercenary soldier who unleashed his expert combat skills on student gang members at a Miami public

Showgirls reunited the Basic Instinct directing/writing team of Paul Verhoeven and Joe Eszterhas, to dismal results - a supposedly titillating, actually repulsive backstage saga, set around the topless floorshows of the Las Vegas strip. Never has a crummy exploitation pieture taken itself quite so seriously.

An Eye for an Eye marked a nadir io director John Schlesmger's distinguished career, pitting a hysterical Sally Field against a growling Kiefer Sutherland in an intelligenceinsulting revenge fantasy.

Never Talk to Strangers featured Rebecca De Mornay as a psychologist, threateoed by one of the men in ber life. In the end possibly the most ludicrous of 1996 - it turned out that she was

stalking herself.... But sleazy big-budget American movies weren't the only bad ones this year: Merchant and lvory's Jefferson in Paris was a cadaverous self-parody of the "tasteful" literary dramas in which the team specializes.

Greek master Angelopoulos was responsible for one the most preteotious films of the year, Ulysses' Gaze, which took the imposing subject of the Balkan conflict and pumped it full of enough decorative hot air to float the Goodyear blimp. The movie also managed the oeat trick of making dynamic Harvey Keitel sound like ooe of the living dead.

And, finally, Kevin Costner can always be counted on to offer up one of the year's dreariest works. In 1994 there was Wyatt Earp; 1995 brought Waterworld; and in 1996, Costner starred in Tin Cup, an exceptionally tedious film about the love between a man and his golf clubs.

What treasures, we wonder, does 1997 hold in store?













The best (left column, from top): 'Emma,' 'City Hall,' 'Devil in a Blue Dress.' The worst (right column, from top): 'Striptease,' 'Never Talk to Strangers,' 'The Substitute.'

NEWS OF THE MUSE

A 'queen' in Bethlehem'

Israel's "Queen of the East," singer Zehava Ben, gave a Christmas concert in Bethlehem, enectraining a 400-strong andience at the Golden Roof Bantipet Half with a selection of winder and Hebrew 1 songs. The dance floor filled up the moment Ben took the stage, and by the end of the night young men were dancing on the tables. The raven-haired, twentysomething Ben is enormously popular among: Palestinians. "We don't look at her as a Jew or an Israeli" explained Moslem admirer at the Christmas show, "we look at her as a singer Juriah Agassi a good singer." On New Year's Eve. Ben will perform in Paris.

Gary Bertini goes east

Conductor Gary Bertini has accepted a three-year contract stading.

April 1998 as music director of the Tokyo Metropolitud Symphony

Orchestra, the first time a non-Japanese has been appointed. Maestro Bertini, who first conducted the orchestra in 1981, is affectionately: nicknamed "the Mahler conductor" in Tokyo because of his concerts with TMSO of that composer's Second and Sixth Symphonics. Bertini, who has been affiliated with the New Israeli Opera since its founding in 1986, will resign as NIO music director in July 1997. Helen Kaye

Leaming in London

The 32-strong senior class of the Ramat Gan Beit Zvi Drama School is off to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) from January 3-19 where they'll hear a lecture by director Peter ... James, a frequent visitor to local stages, who last directed here at the Beersheba Theater in 1994. The LAMDA visit is part of an intensive theater formight during which they'll see at least 20 plays from / Shakespeare to the fringe, including James's West End production of the classic farce Plunder. The incky students have to pay their aufance and hotel bills, but they're getting the tickets for next to nothing.

Teaching at Nissan Nativ

British actor Bruce Myers, remembered for his performance in The Man Who... directed by Peter Brook at the 1995 Israel Pestival, has been spending the last two weeks giving workshops to professional actors and students from the Nissan Nativ acting achool. Myers has worked with Brook at the director's world-famous Paris Internati Theater Center since Brook founded it in 1970. Myers has also worked extensively with other theatrical innovators such as Joseph Chaikin in New York and Andre Serban in Poland. Helen Kaye

To see or not to see?. .

That is the question American movie-goers are now pondering before deciding whether to brave Kenneth Branagh's new lavishadaptation of Humler which, at four-and a half hours, is the second-longest motion picture ever shown in America. Branagh both directs the film and stars as the young prince himself, it will be shown with an intermission, much to the delight of cinema managers who say this will double the sales of popcom The Belfast-born actor and, director, who turned 36 this mouth, has already made films of Henry V. Much Ado About Nothing, Othello, and A Winter's Tale, and is rumored to want to bring the entire collected works of Shakespeare

John Entwistle, The Who's lanky bass player is showing off 20 years' worth of drawings. The show first turned up in the US this year when Entwistle was touring with the band. Since mid year, his "Who's Art?" shows have been opening simultaneously with the band's performances of its Quadrophenia rock opera in major cities. The more than 30 pen-and-ink drawings are mainly of other rock. stars including fellow Who members Pete Townsend, Roger Daliney, and the late Keith Moon, but also include such gerns as "the German tourist" and "the American tourist." The exhibit also includes what... may be Entwistle's most famous work, the hihograph "Who By Numbers," which was taken from the original drawing featured on the band's 1975 bit album.

Correction

IN last Tuesday's article about Dvora Bertonov, the choreographer's name was inadvertently misspelled.

The opera Stalin hated

MITRI Shostakovitch "may have looked weak and sickly," says director Irina Molostova, "but he was passionate and knew how to love. The opera reflects that, very much."

The opera she's directing for the New Israeli Opera is Lady Macbeth from Mtsensk or Katerina Ismailova, the composer's only opera. The conductor is the incredible Valery Gergiev, music director of the Kirov, and the NIO/Kirov coproduction (the first), opens at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on

January 5. Molostova has been a senior director at the Kirov for many years. She's tall, thin, white-haired, slightly buck-toothed, and captivatmg. She has vivid, bright blue eyes, and she talks with her whole body, her gestures so expressive that even though she speaks through an inter-

preter, you half understand anyway. "This isn't just my favorite opera, it's my child," she says of Katerina, laying her hand on her heart, "but when I first heard it on the piano, I thought it was nothing so special. You need the orchestra

for Shostakovitch."

The NIO is actually performing Katerina Ismailova, the composer's second and gentler version of the opera - the one he preferred. Kaserina Ismailova premiered in Moscow in 1963. The original version had premiered in 1934, and **HELEN KAYE**

two years later Stalin saw it in Moscow. The next day, Pravda ran a piece that trashed the opera and the composer. Shostakovitch was relegated to parish status.

Today, the Kirov mounts both versions, "and really, they're not that different except for the text," says the director. The big difference is in the third scene where Shostakovitch, as a young man, emphasized the lover's physical dominance over Katerina.

The opera is based on a story by Nikolai Leskov, and he fictionalized the true story of a woman who murdered her busband and her father-in-law for the sake of her lover. In the opera, the still ehildless Katerina (Irina Luskotova /Larissa Schevtchenko) is trapped in a loveless and abusive marriage to Ismailov (Boris Yerifiev), a rich merchant. She falls in love with the oew foreman, Sergei (Yuri Marusin/Sergei Naida). When her lustful father-in-law (Bulat Minzhilkiev/Vladimir Braun) threatens to tell her busband, she poisons him. Sergei actually kills Ismailov, but Katerina helps him

conceal the body. Caught, tried, and convicted, the couple are exiled to Siberia. On the march, Sergei shows his true colors and flirts with Sonietka (Susanna Poretsky). Anguished, Katerina

shoves her into the icy river and then jumps in after her.

"Katerina is a good woman, repressed in brutal and evil surroundings," Molostova argues.
"She behaves evilly because her natural instincts for good are ground down. Protest has to find an

exit, and then it can turn violent. "This piece is true not just for Russia. It's true everywhere that people are bumiliated and stripped of their dignity."

Molostova was born and grew up in Moscow. She'd always wanted to be a director, and, after her graduation from Moscow University, she was sent to Kiev where she directed plays and operettas with such success that the Kiev Opera invited her to direct for them. Since then she's directed some 100 operas as well as

plays, films and TV. She first met Shostakovich in 1963 when "we decided to do the opera in Kiev. I went to Moscow to meet him. He paid great attention to me, but, as I was speaking, I felt he was composing something in his head all the time, so I spoke faster and faster so that he could go off and work."

There was a new production of Katerina Ismailova in 1975, "and he only came once to rehearsals. He was already ill then, but in 1975, be was already fully rehabilitated. The whole politburo came to the premiere.

Pearl's golden oldies

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Rosa Ponselle. 'La Traviata.' The falling in love in carnest, we Legendary Complete Recording at believe her despair when she meets 1935 with excerpts from 'Norma.' Germont, and we respond with Pearl (GEMM CD 9317).

The Carnso Edition. Volume IV, 1916-1921. Pearl (EVC IV).

THE Pearl catalog's oumerous recordings from the distant past feature a wealth of musical delights.

Rosa Ponselle is one of the greatest sopranos of all time and this Traviata shows exactly why. Recorded in 1935 at a live performance, conducted with aplomb by Ettore Panizza, it features Lawrence Tibbett as a spellbinding Germont, and Frederick Jagel as a lighthearted Alfredo. Ponselle's is one of the most mesmerizing

Compared to later versions one could comment on the level of the orchestral playing and the conductor, who leaves a lot to be desired. But this performance is marked by its intensity, and Ponselle's portrayal of the tragic heroine.

Ponselle becomes Violena even when we do not see her. Her voice is enough to carry us into Violetta's own world.

And in the crucial dramatic moments she is simply spellbind-ing. We sense her initial joy of

tears to ber sacrifice when she leaves the man she loves. But Ponselle is at her very best in

the third and final act. "É tardi," she sings, it is too late, sense her total despair.

This Traviata is by far superior to many of its modern recordings. And as a bonus, we get Ponselle singing two oumbers from Norma recorded in 1928-9: the Casta Diva Aria and the Mira'o Norma duet with Marion Telva which is just

CARUSO IS one of the finest tenors of all time. And some of his later recordings are available on

The Pearl Caruso Edition follows his artistry in a very comprehensive way and allows us to see how he developed through the years.

This fourth volume features three discs with elose to three-and-half bours of music and 56 pieces ranging from arias to popular songs. These recordings were made between 1916 and 1921 and, as usual, the sound quality is far from ideal. But the main thing is that voice, which carries without any







Traviatas.



IN JERUSALEM 24.12.96 - 9.1.97 Lorin Maazel, Conductor

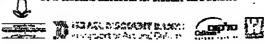
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A strike too far

FTER Histadrut trade union department cannot be tolerated. head Shlomo Shani failed to appear in Court on Friday for a hearing on the Histadrut's violation of court restraining orders, the Tel Aviv Labor Court ordered him arrested for contempt of court.

Over the weekend, the union leader "went underground" to avoid arrest. In the meantime, the Histadrut's "action committee" issued strike orders for workers in other major ecocomic sectors. Upon Shani's arrest yesterday. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz ordered a wildcat strike, while condemning the government's "terrorist actions" against workers.

The disturbing rhetoric of "underground," "actioo committee," and "terrorism" indicates that the Histadrut, rather than staying within the. bounds of legality, negotiations, and the political process, has reserved for itself the right to flout the rule of law and take the whole country hostage to fulfill its demands.

If anyone is engaging it "terrorism" here, it is the Histadrut. Eveo if the labor court went too far io ordering Shani's arrest, the use of a strike to reverse a court decision is an unvarnished intimidation tactic that severely threatens the rule of law. If terrorism is the victimizing of innocent people to achieve political ends, then the Histadrut is eogaging in economic terrorism, pure and simple.

In the case in point, the labor court, in its original decision, did not decide to prohibit the strike, but to limit it to a few bours to reduce the damage to the economy and to the innocent citizens who bear the brunt of any such strike. The Histadrut chose first to ignore the restraining order, and then to ignore the summons to a hear-

ing on its actions. In any democracy, the right to strike is a fundameotal civil right, and must be treated with the utmost respect. Governments should be hesitant to take legal actions against industrial action, even if questionable, because the ultimate protection against unreasonable strikes is popular censure.

Democratic societies also have the right, however, to protect themselves against arbitrary or overreaching strikes by taking legal action.

It is unusual, if not unprecedented, for a labor court to issue an arrest order against a senior union leader in a labor dispute. It is also unusual for unions to ignore a court's restraining order. In yesterday's hearing, Peretz claimed the restraining order was not violated deliberately, the strike simply went out of control. But whatever the merits of the court's decision to issue a warrant for Sbani's arrest, calling a strike in response is a blatant threat to the rule of law and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - As coordinator of the

English Department at the Safed

Regional College, I see a tremen-

dous change taking place in Israel's regional colleges. The

Ministry of Education has enact-

ed a major policy change over

the past year or so and this

change has and will greatly effect

Israel's higher education system.

In the past, university studeots

expected to get all of their higher

degrees from one of the major

universides. This is no longer

true. Because the major universi-

ty campuses are overburdeoed

with applicants, and because our

society is demanding more and more employees at all job levels

with college degrees, there is no

looger sufficient room oo the

campus for BA studeots. As a

result, the Ministry of Education

Sir. - I thank the Almighty every

day that Mr. Netanyahu is our

prime minister and not Shimon

Peres. Since the new government

took office, the differences

between these two meo is more

Peres was prime minister when

the Hamas murderer "the engi-

neer" was slain and war against

Hizbullah in Lebanon took place.

During those difficult times, the

opposition, led by Bibi Netanyahu, backed Peres all the

apparent than ever.

Imagine what would happen if the police decided to surround a court building in response to a verdict that they did not like, or that death threats against Supreme Court justices by religious extremists were considered an acceptable form of protest. Courts are not perfect, but no element of society has the right to take the law into its own hands and attempt to override the court through intimidation tactics.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor was correct in stating: "It is inconceivable that workers will violate the law and get backing for this from the Histadrut leadership." Hc added that the Histadrut's "delegitimization of the labor court is an attack on the essence of democracy." In general, it is better that the state oot abuse its power over the unions, and that unions not abuse their power over the state. Even between onions and management, out-and-out confrontation rarely produces results that are good for either side. The interests of workers, management, and government in a modern, global economy are more in common than in conflict, pointing to negotiated solutions, without legal or strike threats, as in everyone's long-term best

Yesterday's strike, called against the court action, may succeed in deterring the courts against similar actions in the future. If so, it amounts to Histadrut: 1. Rule of Law: 0. But in the end the Histadrut will be the big loser, because popular support for privatization will

The long list of government industries and companies that were paralyzed by yesterday's action reads like the proper hit list for the government's privatization efforts. The Histadrut may be inadvertently making the government's case for massive economic reform. Most Israelis, given the choice, would probably prefer not to have their lives and livelihoods hostage to a labor federation prone to flex its muscles arbitrarily at their expense.

Rather than adapting to the times, the Histadrut seems to be attempting to yell stop in front of the train of progress. By fighting change in a knee-jerk way, the Histadrut reduces its clout in the legitimate battles to cushion the impact of change that lie ahead. Today's Histadrut exhibits no sense that the Israeli economy must evolve, become freer, more flexible, and more efficient to compete in the global economy. Rather than demonstrating its power, the Histadrut's strike action looks more like Chicken Little's plaintive cry that the sky is falling, a claim that the people of Israel will increasingly reject.

deuts, etc.?

university degree?

the devil's advocate.

Safed.

Efrat.

conditions. Although teachers are

required to have the same qualifi-

cations as those bolding posts at

major universities, the condi-

tions/salaries for those teaching

in regional colleges are not the same. What will this mean to stu-

Another major concern is the

fact that studeots who are willing

to pay more and work less for

their degrees (on all levels

including PhD) can get them by

mail for a large sum. How does

this affect our society? What

does this say about the value of a

world does what is in its selfish

interest to do. We have to look

after our interests and stop being

winner. Shimon, my advice to you

is to retire quictly. I am happy you

to lead us to ever bigger things.

RACHEL BEN-ZEV,

English Coordinator,

Safed Regional College

MICHAEL B. OREN

Best track

VEN with the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreeiment on Hebron nearly secured - a major breakthrough. inaugurating the decisive stage of the Osio process - it's still open season on Binyamin Netanyahu. As might be expected, the prime minister is being lambasted by the

Left for allegedly wasting time and human lives in reaching an accord virtually identical to that Despite widespread claims that he has no

policy, Netanyahu's

direction is clear

already negotiated by the previous

Labor government.

But he is also coming under increasingly vituperative attacks from the Right, for backtracking on his campaign rbetoric in favor of unbridled settlement building, and against the creation of a Palestinian state.

Distrusted by the Arabs, despised by the Israeli and foreign press, it seems Netanyahu has no natural allies. Yet his very isolation is the foremost sign that he is on the right track - the best track for everyone, Jews as well as Arabs.

While it's true that Netanyahu's first months in office have been marred by a preponderance of gaffes and misjudgments (as if Rabin's weren't - remember the Hamas deportation?) the record of these errors should not obscure the orime minister's success in maneuvering with next to no latitude.

Netanyahu has had to navigate between the Scylla of Greater Israel and the Charybdis of an unrestricted Palestinian state in all of the territories - between a return to the 1967 borders and perpetnal occupation.

Under the threat of renewed terror by the Palestinians be has had to haggle with Arafat over the final minutiae of the Hebroo agreement, at the same time resisting pressure to expand settlements, thus providing a pretext for that terror.

The course before Netanyahu winds precariously between White House receptions and the shells of bombed-out buses.

THAT Netanyahu's efforts have been relentlessly condemned by elements on both political extremes comes as no surprise. What is curious, however, is the depth of criticism beaped on him from moderate, middle-of-the-road Israelis, the much-touted center.

This is the center that demands a solution to the Palestinian problem, as promised by Labor, ogether with the security pledged by the Likud. It's the center that doesn't want 150,000 settlers to lose their homes, but doesn't want their sons patrolling Palestinian cities, either, it's the center that insists Jerusalem remain Israel's united capital, yet, within that context, is willing to sanction a Palestinian capital as well.

It is this center which, going on recent polls, is most dissatisfied with Netanyahu, among which his popularity has plummeted. But it is precisely the center that

Netanyahu serves. Elected to pursue the Oslo process but from a position of tougher bargaining, Netanyahu has done just that. That Arafat chose to respond to Israel's electoral decision with terror - if it hadn't been the opening of the Hasmonean tunnel, he would have found some other excuse - should oot detract from that fact.

For all the complaints leveled against him, Netanyahu has advanced the process, albeit at a more cautious pace, while keeping our streets relatively free of terror,

Dry Bones









and he has done so under constant international censure and Arab threats of war.

Neither intimidated by the Left nor entirely beholden to the Right, alone even in his own party, he has steered a centrist's course.

And where does that course lead? Despite widespread claims that he has no policy, Netanyahu's direction is clear - as clear as it can be, given his constraints.

He is headed toward a compromise between unconditional Palestinian sovereignty and highly qualified autonomy, an arrangement in which Israel retains both the bulk of its settlements and significant leverage on security matters. His goals are those the majority of

Israelis have sought all along, and still seek, in spite of their avowed disappointment with their leader,

The answer for those in the cenper, Jews and Arabs, is to give Netanyahu a chance - a real chance, free of the bysteria that characterizes his many detractors. Cut him some slack, in the realization of the massive restrictions

in the hope that, learning from his mistakes. he may yet guide us to the ports of peace and security. The writer teaches Middle Eastern history and is the outhor of The Origins of the Second

Arab-Israeli War, soon to be o

major motion picture.

under which he must operate, and

The real enemies of peace...

THE time has come for Israel to insist on compliance needs, but to bring Palestinian

expectations back down to earth. Unpleasant for the Palestinians? Of course it will be. Arafat will have to disarm not only Hamas but his own many and various illegal militias too. He will have to fire some terrorists from the security forces, and even hand some over to Israel. He will have to pull out his troops from Jerusalem, and stop terrorizing Arabs who belped

Israel in the past.

And in compliance with the Oslo accords he will have to restrain his electronic media, putting a halt to the constant incitement to violence that is the hallmark of Palestinian TV and radio broadcasts. This and

Arafat will find none of these things easy. But they will drive home a clear message to the Palestinian people: that they are going to have to lower their expectations. And the sooner that happens the better the chances that the Oslo experiment won't end in a bloodbath.

Because no matter how many red lines Netanyahu et al are willing to cross - even if they jump to the left of Shimon Peres - they will still be light years away from what the Palestinians ultimately think Arafat will get them: a judenrein, well-armed Palestinian state covering the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip - including all of East Jerusalem. And all this as a springboard for the ultimate march toward the sea (oot to mention implementation of the right of return to Haifa and Jaffa.) But, claim the Israeli opponents

AARON LERNER

of compliance demands, Arafat cannot possibly honor the agreement and retain power.... If Arafat cannot honor the

Supreme Court and no B'Tselem" to tie his hands) is there any reason to expect that he will be able to survive if he accepts even the absolutely does not have.

term is deceptive, since the world interprets it as meaning that, at any given time, Israel and the Palestinian Authority start with a agreement today, with many tens " tlesin slate - in other words. Israel of thousands of similar troops " cannot expect or demand anything (and, as Yitzhak Rabin but it, "no "from Arafat without doing some-

thing itself. This choice of term has sucked Israel into a symmetry Oslo

... are those who oppose Palestinian compliance with the Oslo accords

most liberal of Israeli compromises as a final agreement?

And if, to survive, Arafat "sells" the final agreement with Israel as only one more step in the nefarious program to destroy Israel by stages, then the entire exercise will have been meaningless for the Jewish state.

Some leftist extremists argue that at least in such a simution. they would be able to face the battle for survival with the moral satisfaction of knowing that Israel had exhausted all the alternatives to war.

But such "moral satisfaction" comes at too high price. The mysti-cal, intaional belief in the IDF's ability to win any war under any conditions flies in the face of that cornerstone of Judaism which enions us not to "rely on miracles."

SINCE his election Prime Minister Netanyahu has frequently said that Israel demands "reciprocity" from the Palestinians. But the

As a nation in this "experiment." Israel is the sole risk-taker. Israel agreed to allow tens of thousands of enemy armed soldiers into the very heart of its territory.

If Arafat fails, he risks, at most, personal danger for himself and his colleagues. They might end up killed as traitors - or, alternatively, as terrorists - but in no way do they risk the survival of the Palestinian people. Israel, ultimately, does risk its own survival.

That old slogan "for Israel every test is a final exam" carries the ring of truth.
It is because of this serious risk imbalance that Oslo lacks symme-

try on a oumber of security related · Israel has the legal right to

insist oo the transfer of terrorists. while the PA can't even ask Israel to hand over an Israeli pickpocket;

· Israel was supposed to be able to veto recruits in the PA's various IMRA security services, and there were

supposed to be strict limits on the weapons they carried, while the positioo or arming of Israeli forces: · The agreement allows for IDF

forces and just plain Israelis to travel freely on the roads throughout the autonomy, while allowing Israel to block access to Palestinians. The ramifications of Palestinian

violations of the agreement are also very different from those of Israel's so-called violations.

Israel's delayed release of female Palestinian terrorists from Israeli prisons may certainly upset the Palestinians, but it has no cooceivable impact on Palestinian security. In sharp contrast, the refusal of the PA to hand over terrorist murderers goes to the very heart of Israel's security.

The failure of the two sides to reach agreement on the opening of the so-called "safe passages" is certainly an incoovenience for the Palestinians, but there is oo comparisoo between this inconvenience and the security implications of the illegally armed militias oow sitting in the autonomy.

For Israel's sake and for the sake of the entire peace process the insistence on Palestinian compliance must ring out loud and clear. Such insistence is not a delaying tactic, on the contrary: It is the only way to insure true peace.

Those who oppose compliance are not friends of peace, but its most dangerous foes.

The writer is an associate of (Independent Medio Review & Analysis).

The only way to avoid disaster

THE redeployment in Hebron is a milestone in the implementation of Oslo 2. Bot - what oext?

With a new Israeli government bound by ideology and politics to Bibi, be strong. You are a real oppose the extension and enhancement of Palestinian sovereignty in the West Bank, the have never won an election. This country and nation need a winner prospects for advancing the peace process significantly during the next four years appear bleak.

But if we cannot move ahead we can at least maintain the process, avoiding a new explosion of Palestinian frustration and fury that could quickly erode the

The achievement of even this modest goal will require three proactive steps by the Israeli govemment and the Palestinian Authority.

The first is a genuine cooperative effort to combat and cootsin **EPHRAIM SNEH**

measures, and the trust that is still so fragile would quickly seep The second step is the econom-

ic development of the Palestinian territories, raising the standard of living for residents there. If the Palestinians cannot count

The final step if the peace process is to be maintained is the reversal of the government's commitment to expand Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

Under the government's plan the number of Israeli settlers on the West Bank will double by the year

Curb terror. Boost the Palestinian economy. Halt the expansion of settlements

on any betterment in their political status during the next four years, they should at least be assured of a marked improvement in their economic position to give them a continued stake in the

Improving the Palestinian economy means new myestments and

2000, sending a clear negative signal to the Palestinians about the prospect of statehood there.

While the future of the West Bank is to be the sobject of further negotiations under the Oslo accords, those talks will become meaningless in Palestinian eyes if

of the peace process.

CURB terror. Improve the Palestinian economy. Halt the expansion of West Bank settlemente

These are the three steps that must be adopted to facilitate new discussions of the implementation of the entire Oslo 2 agreement, the additional redeployment of Israeli troops and the beginning of a dialogue regarding permanent arrange-

The benefits are clear, Israelis would enjoy greater security without suicide bombs and other terrorist acts. Palestinians could build the economic foundations

so essential to a sovereign state. And the options regarding final agreement between Israel and the Palestinians will remain open.

Even if we cannot expect remarkable progress toward peace

ties in science and the humani-

POLITICS ON BAR-ILAN CAMPUS Sir. - Bar-Ilan University's academic ceoters in Democracy and Civility, Education for Peace and Tolerance, and Religioo and Politics, or major research activi-

wing students protest," December

OUESTIONS ABOUT NEW TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

is successfully promoting a new

trend - namely, that students get

their BA degree at a local college

and go oo to the major university

campuses only for their second

(MA) and third (PhD) degrees.

This policy shift affects stu-

dents, teachers and the general

public on the economic as well as

the educational level. Is a degree

from a regional college as mean-

ingful as a degree from a major

university? Are all of the regioo-

al colleges equal in the level of

education they give? Are all

teachers at the colleges equally

qualified to teach? Do all of the

colleges give their teachers an

equal salary? With so many BA

holders, what will occur in the

Teachers in all colleges are

concerned at present about their

REAL WINNER

way, as any responsible opposition

should. He gave full support to

Peres to do whatever had to be

done. Israel cannot afford to do

whatever the uncaring world wish-

On the other hand, in the last six

months Peres has irresponsibly

criticized the new government, as

if they were the idiots responsible

for giving the Palestinians the

arms used to murder our soldiers.

We have to stop having this ter-

rible inferiority complex. The

job market?

es us to do.

Bar-Ilan does not suppress political views on campus. Rather, it disciplines unruly students who affix their political

in thought and religious belief. But if this gets in the way of a sensationalist, unsubstantiated Post headline about "political repression," apparently facts are of no consequence,

DAVID M. WEINBERG,

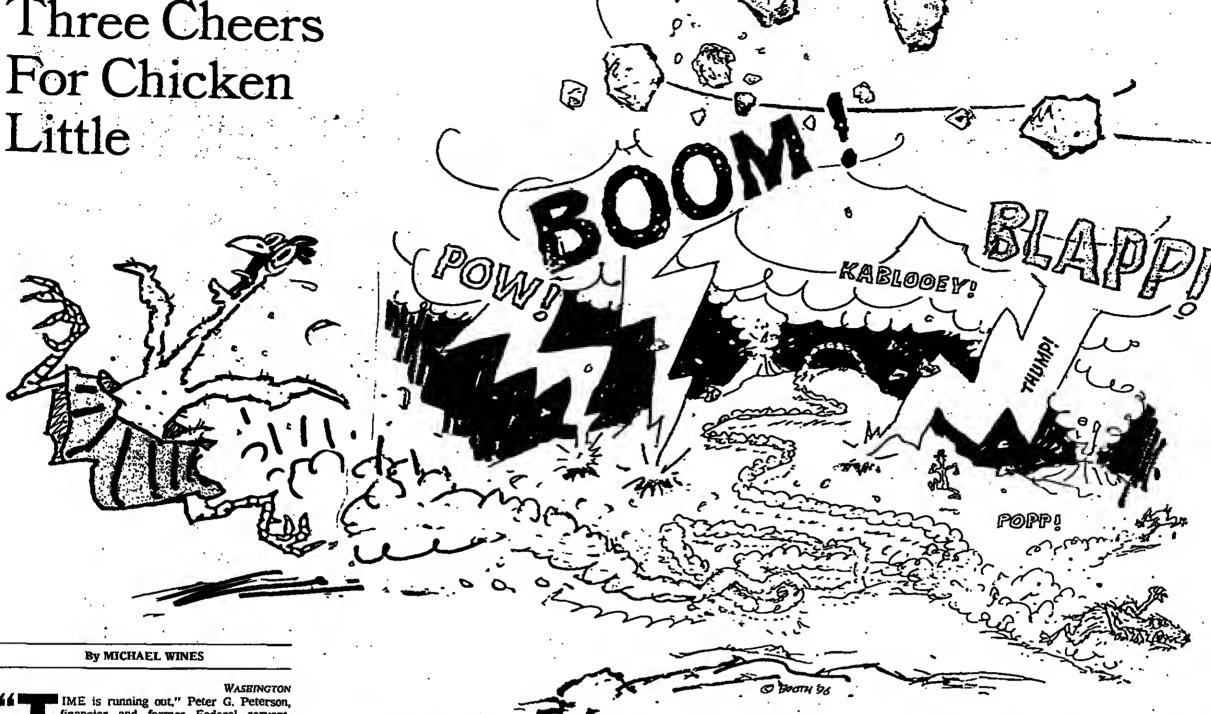
BRIAN LEVIN

Weekly Review

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The Sky Is Falling

Three Cheers For Chicken



financier and former Federal servant, warns in his latest book, "Will America Grow Up Before It Grows Old?" Mr. Peterson is writing about the imminent bankruptcy of Medi-care. No matter. It easily could have been global warming, overpopulation, declining sperm counts, drug-resistant germs, designer genes, nuclear terrorism, AIDS, the national debt. Apple Computer, Democrats, Republicans, the two-party system, wetlands, desertification, moral decline, moral zealots, killer asteroids or, for that matter, software that does not recognize the year 2000.

Happy New Year? Right. Enjoy your delusion of a fresh start: the world is going to hell in a handbasket. Or so it seems. There was a time - the '50's - when America was hopelessly upbeat, a place where men touted atomic bombs as friendly, if noisy, tunnel-diggers and Interstate highways as adventures in manifest destiny. Nineties America, on the precipice of a new millenium, paces anxiously and prays it doesn't trip and

fall into the abyss. Alarmism is a national obsession. It

is also big-time entertainment, rife with pop Cassandras hawking digitally enhanced jeremiads, egged on by a news business with a hottomiess appetite for thrills.

From the land of give to the fione of the grave are Americans getting too much of a bad thing? Of course they are. In their endless pursuit of a risk-

free Utopla, Americans bave developed a Texas-sized neurosis about mortal threats that never quite seem to match their advance billing.

But that begs the real question: why doesn't the sky fall? And that question is a tougher one. Sure, plenty of alarms are raised over threats that

are, to put it kindly, overstated. Some are undiluted hype; some may reflect the fact that Americans' threshold for a good scare has fallen as their lives have become more insulated from barm. Upton Sinclair struck terror in the hearts of carnivores 90 years ago by exposing horrendous meatpacking conditions in "The

Maybe a bit of windbaggery can work better than wisdom to promote the public good.

Jungle." Today Scare City is bad hamburger at a Jackin-the-Box, surely tragic and just as surely infrequent.

But just as often, maybe, the sky doesn't fall because alarms work as the alarmists intended. Maybe the apocalypse never fully arrives because the alarmists, wretched excess frightens people into taking action. Maybe - go ahead, choke on the words - maybe the world will avoid fatal blunt asteroid trauma in 2050

because Dan Quayle urged the electorate in 1992 to watch for falling meteors. -maybe! There's no way to know for sure. The only, usuquq evidence that an alarm works is in its being proved false . . . - which may also be evidence that the alarm wasunnecessary to begin with. And from this it's hard to avoid the unsettling conclusion that a blt of windbaggery can work better than wisdom to insure th at least sometimes. It's a shrill world, after all, and

alarmism may be both a cause and a result of it.

Recent history is filled with examples of Chicken
Littles — hype artists and otherwise — who bave clearly
had an impact on their cause. The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, is an alarmist, and a good one. Mr. Greenspan is a fire bell against raging inflation. His latest tack was to Imply (mostly by lifting

Continued on page 4

Backsliding

Taxes were getting fairer. For a while.



By Diana B. Henriques

'Protoundly Conservative'

France's migration to the right.

By Roger Cohen

Peace Dividend Fixing blame for Israel's economic woes.



Taking Hostages in Peru

Revolution as a Relic Come to Life

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

ERU has a knack for defying political waves that splash over the rest of Latin America. When right-wing military dictator-ships ruled its neighbors in the 1970's, a leftist Peruvian dictator confiscated the oligarchy's sugar plantations. When other guerrillas looked to Fidel Castro in the 1980's, Peru's Shining Path embraced Man. And as the sweet promises of democracy swept the region in the early 1990's, President Alberto K. Fujimori dissolved Congress. So perhaps it should come as no sur-

prise that Peruvian Marxist rebels would make their boldest attack in years after most other Latin American guerrilla

A hostage's diary. Word for Word, Page 7

wars had long since ground to a halt. There was almost something quaint, even evocative, about 20 Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels armed with assault rifles and dynamite acting out an old script by taking hundreds of dignitaries hostage at a Japanese diplomatic cocktail party in an effort to free hundreds of their imprisoned comrades.

The action conjured images of so many revolutionary crusades of days gone by, as when the Sandinistas took the Nicaraguan Congress hostage in 1978, an act so audacious it sparked an insurrection that brought down Anastasio So-

moza Debayle a year later. "It is an almost exact duplication of what we did," Antonio Navarro Wolff, who led Colombia's M-19 guerrillas, told the Peruvian magazine Si, recalling the taking of 30 hostages in the Dominican Republic's embassy in Bogotá for two months in 1980. It was no surprise that Mr. Navarro advised the Peruvian rebels



Peruvian television last February showed the guerrilla leader Néstor Cerpa Cartolini describing a thwarted attack plan.

to release their hostages as a "humani-tarian gesture," since he dropped his rifle long ago and helped draft Colom-bia's 1991 Constitution.

"This is sort of an outdated, unexpectantly recurrent activity," said Jorge G. Castañeda, a Mexican economist and student of the Latin American left. "These groups and forms of struggle have been obsolete for a long time." Nevertheless, he noted that as long as the Peruvian Government keeps political prisoners in the most squalid conditions, their comrades will feel compelled to take dra-

matic action in an effort to free them. The novelty of the Peruvian rebel attack was underscored by its timing. It was staged as the Guatemalan guerrillas and Government reached another in a series of peace accords that promise an

end to a four-decade-old rebellion.

The Guatemalans are following close behind El Salvador's rebels, who after negotiating a peace have traded their battle fatigues for power ties they now wear in their nation's Congress. Likewise, revolutionaries from Chile to Venezuela to Nicaragua to the Dominican

Continued on page 3

WEEKLY REVIEW

The Nation

10 Years After Tax Overhaul, the Loopholes Expand

By DIANA B. HENRIQUES

EN years ago this week, the United States out into effect what political leaders hailed as a fairer tax system, wiping out shelters that many wealthy Americans used to prevent much of their income from being taxed. At the same time, maximum tax rates were lowered.

For years, many affluent citizens who had used shelters paid far lower taxes than others who earned the same income. Oil-drilling ventures and real estate partnerships, among other activities, bad flourished for no

As the wealthy circumvent taxes on income, estates and investment profits, many critics worry that the progressive ideal is eroding.

reason other than the circumvection of taxes. After Congress passed a sweeping overhaul of the tax code in 1986, these loopholes largely disappeared and the richest Americans were forced to pay more.

Now the tax engine is shifting into reverse. Top tax rates bave crept up again, though they are still lower than they were before the 1986 tax overhaul. And the shrewdest among the wealthy, in collaboration with eager expert advisers, are finding ingenious new shelters to keep the tax collector at bay in three big areas their salaries and bonuses, investment profits and es-

These techniques are not available to most Americans. And they are spreading largely without attention from policy makers in Washington, even though they are costing the Treasury money. Exactly how much money, no one knows. But the amount is expected to grow significantly because the full impact of these techniques will be felt in years to come.

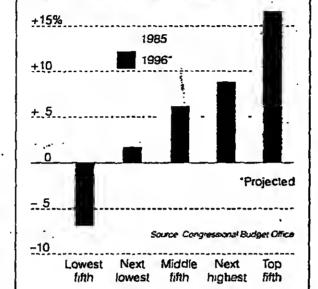
The appearance of the latest tax shelters raises old questions of fairness. They are chipping away, tax experts say, at a longstanding principle that the American tax system should be progressive -- that the well-todo should pay the biggest share of their income.

Some of these techniques replace gimmicks that Congress stripped from the tax code 10 years ago. For example, Congress cut the annual limit on tax-deferred investments in Individual Retirement Accounts and the employee savings accounts called 401(k) plans to \$9,500

Action to the second se

Spreading the Load

The 1986 tax overhaul and subsequent rate increases have made the system more progressive. Here are effective FederaLineome tax rates for families, as a percentage of annual income, after all deductions, exclusions and other adjustments. Because of the earned income lax credit, many families in the group with the lowest income recaived more from the Federal Government than they paid.



some executives skirt that limit by delaying income taxes for years, even decades, sometimes on millions of dollars in pay. Hundreds of thousands of bigher-paid managers have been offered these plans by their employers, most in the last few years.

Congress in 1986 also closed some loopboles in the estate tax, which is incurred when wealth is handed from one generation to the next. But today oew kinds of trusts allow the most prosperous and resourceful citizens to leave homes, family businesses and stock options to their heirs with minimal taxes.

And even as a bull market has exposed a large number of middle-class Americans to the capital gains tax through their mutual fund investments, some Wall Street firms have started offering complex deals that let their top customers get most of the benefits of selling a valuable asset without actually having to sell it and pay the tax on the profit.

ings that the tax system is inequitable. "The more these products multiply," said Richard McGahey, former executive director of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, "it feeds the perception that the system is

Raising the Top

The reforms of 1986 and subsequent increases in maximum tax rates in 1991 and 1993 helped make the Federal income tax system more progressive, as measured by effective tax rates, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Some analysts fear that avoidance maneuvers will erode those gains.

"Much of these tax issues are going to come down to fairness, one way or the other," said David Hackett Fischer, the author of "The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythms of History" and a historian at Brandeis University. "We have to think of what kind of nation we want to be."

One concern is that higher-income taxpayers are already reaping a growing share of the nation's economic wealth. Research by the economist Edward N. Wolff of New York University shows that from 1983 through 1992, the richest 20 percent of the population saw its share of the nation's wealth grow to 83.7 percent from 81.3 per-

The Clinton Administration's response to the latest twists in tax avoidance bas been to propose closing some loopholes, chiefly those that Wall Street is peddling to avoid capital gains taxes. Congress has responded to that idea with a chilly indifference, and the most energetic advocacy has been on the side of cutting taxes, flattening tax rates and clipping the powers of the Internal Revenue

The I.R.S. response has mostly been a tower of ad hoc "private letter" rulings, brief decisions that permit one specific tax-avoidance technique. These rulings, although tailored to the facts of one case, often become a key ingredient of the next popular tax-avoidance device to emerge. Even when the agency fights back in court, its track record is poor, lawyers say, as its workload has outstripped its budget and its litigation staff.

Positions on what should be done to change the tax system diverge in large part on differences in definitions of fairness. According to numerous surveys, most Americans think that the fairest tax system is one in which the rich pay a larger share of their income in taxes than the less-rich do. But many say fairness is achieved when everyone with the same income pays the same tax. And others say fairness prevails when all taxpayers pay the same percentage of their income to the tax collector, whether that would leave them with millions or thou-

Jack Kemp, the former vice presidential candidate, and Steve Forbes, the publishing executive turned Presidential candidate, campaigned for the single tax rate, calling it a flat tax. This presumably simpler approach, lead to less wasteful spending on tax accountants and

End-runs around the tax code, some economists and business executives contend, are the inevitable result of a system that, in their eyes, still penalizes savings and investment while rewarding spending and borrowing.

"You ought to encourage people to get wealthy," said Theodore Forstmann, a Wall Street investment banker who served on a national panel set up last year to advise Republican leaders on tax reform. "You don't want to

penalize people for that." Yet tax lawyers say privately that most of the proposed alternatives to the current system would be equally vulnerable to tax avoidance. The reason is that wealthy people can make adjustments in how they receive and use their money to take maximum advantage

of the smallest loophole. For example, eliminating or greatly reducing the capital gains tax would simply increase the demand for financial techniques that could replace ordinary income with capital gains. Instead of a higher salary, a company might give top executives a low-cost personal stake in a subsidiary that stands to become more valuable; the initial value of the stake would count as taxable income,

Shrewd lawyers and investment bankers are finding ways to reinvent the shelters that Congress wiped out in 1986.

but the increased value might well accrue to the executives as tax-free capital gains.

A pure flat tax, one that applies the same tax rate to any level of income and to income from any source, would be least prone to gimmickry, economists say. But a flat tax's vulnerability to circumvention grows once income generated by investments is exempted, as proposed by Mr. Forbes, whose investments generate most of his income.

In the debate over how the nation should tax itself, the ability of the wealthy to engineer a way around their tax burden will need to be considered, said Herbert Steio, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Richard M. Nixon.

"Financial engineering should be addressed," he said, "People are now saying that since the upper income can escape taxes, why not make it available to everyone? But that will make it very hard to finance the Govern-

Not So Separate

Ebonics, Language of Richard Nixon

By KAREN DE WITT

N local television studios and at dinner tables all across America last week, everyone had an opinion about the Oakland Board of Education's resolution requiring its teachers to appreciate and understand black English. But most Americans, black, white or other, don't bave to learn to appreciate black English. They already use it. Whether It is a separate language (linguists dis-

agree on this), slang or just non-standard speech, the cadences, phrasing and structure of English as spoken by many black Americans has so worked its way into the mainstream as to become an invisible thread in the linguistic tapestry.

Uptight. Outta sight. Aaahh, right. Groovin' Jivin' Slippin' Slidin'. I'm baaad. Dissin'. Wannabe. Crib. Shades. You, go girl. My man.

While the Oakland resolution is meant to recognize the separateness and difference of black English, its

Whether or not it's a unique language, black English has been appropriated by other Americans, including Presidents.

integration into the national tongue can also be seen as a vindication of the melting-pot theory.

From Madison Avenue's appropriation of rap rhythms and words to sell breakfast cereal to Richard Nixon's use of "right on" - and, of course, to the players and fans at just about any sporting event - Americans of all varieties spice up their English with the argot of black America.

"It's esthetically appealing," said Albert Murray, the jazz critic and novelist. "Black English has appealed to people from the earliest days of America, from minstrels to jazz. Whether they laughed at it or imitated It, they used it and were changed by it."

Even that quintessential Americanism "O.K." turns out to be a direct descendant of the West African word "wakey," according to Robert MacNeil in the 1986 PBS series "The Story of English."

For that matter, the whole of standard English Is a gumbo rich in words of African ancestry, including gumbo itself; there is goober and banjo, voodoo and juhllee, jambalaya, bubba, lanky, cola, banana, chigger, mumbo jumbo, jazz. juke, mojo and zombie.



"You ain't nothin' but a hound dog"

- Elvis Presley

can of whatever ilk or color in every living room across the country bas no more difficulty translating that than the "What's up, Doc?" of his cotton-tailed precursor, Bugs Bunny.

Then there are words of mixed, or uncertain, ancestry. "Yo" might have started out white and Philadelphian (call it the "Rocky" theory), but now it's a rappers' word. So is "bogart," the verb meaning roughly - to blacks, though not to '60's potheads - to tough one's way through a situation, the way Humphrey Bogart would.

The language of black America bubbles up from the



"Right on."

- Richard M. Nixon

pants but using the same language as inner-city black

Most particularly, it has found its way into the songs we sing and the way we sing them. The late Johnny Mercer's "Blues in the Night"

draws its structure ("My momma done told me") from the Gullah language of his Savannah childhood. Jerry Leiber and Mike Stotler, the consummate rock 'n' roll lyricists (and both white), credited the inspiration for their songs to the sounds of blackness that both fell in love with when they were teen-agers. Mr. Stoller went to an integrated summer carm: Mr. Leiher worked as a



"Yo!"

- Rocky Balboa

song about a woman who is throwing out a faithless lover became an anthem of rebellion for 1950's youth, most of

"The vocabulary of rock 'n' roll comes directly out of the idiom of hlack speech, " said Mahmoud El-Kati, professor of history at Macalester College in St. Paul,

There is a darker side to the sociology of this appropriation, said Dr. El-Kati, that has to do with power and the ability to wield it. "In a sense, black English is elevated when its incorporated into the wider culture." he

The World المحانات

Lacking Barricades, France Is in a Funk

By ROGER COHEN

HERE is a new idea afoohere, being pushed hard by Frendleaders: France — land of revotions, the avant-garde, the upheals of 1968 has become a "profoundly coervative country deeply resistant to chige.

Th theory, espoused by Prident Jacques Chirac, is supposed to exply why Frane is in a funk - unreceptive toform. uncovinced by its leaders, unclear but its placein a changing world. In this sceral consevatism, if French leaders a to be believed, lies the reason that Francmore than any other European country, b found itself escriented before the prospect curtailingthe weifare state, creating exible labor narket, adopting the new techlogies of cyberspace and embracing a singEuropean currency, all in order to come in a global conomy.

On the face of it, the idea is and one. There were the events of 1789. Morecently, in the postwar years. France htransformed itself from an overwhelmin rural economy to a highly modern indusal one, opened its borders, freed its finani mar-kets, created the Airbus and thyorld's fastest train and become the fourlargest exporter behind the United States rmany and Japan It has, on balance, beenything but stuck in its ways.

Yet, of late, it is true that luce has sbown signs of digging in its hed single European currency, increasing tringent worldwide competition, a changstrategic equation in Europe — all these ues pose tough choices that touch on natil identity and ultimately cannot be fudge

The challenges the country is are per-haps no more daunting than their Germany or Italy or even Britain. B hancellor Helmut Kohl has given Gerry unifica-tion. Italians have always beinclined to see Europe in a positive li, dragging them northward toward modity. In Britain, the Thatcher years projed changes that bave already made theuntry more competitive and flexible. On France, the most centralized of Europea ates and the most ambitious in its linger dreams of somehow incarnating worldwer, does the whole range of challenges in to provoke a kind of collective dread.

The response has been striking. Suggest reforming the state-owned railroad company, which lost \$3.3 billion last year and has debts of about \$40 billion, and the trains stop. Hint that social security, health insurance and other mandatory wage contribu-tions are so high that they dissuade companies from hiring and contribute to France's crippling 12.1 percent unemployment, and there is an outcry. Try, in short, to tamper with what the French call their "acquis" the established cocoon of a protective state and the reform is stillborn.

It is certainly this mood that French leaders bave sought to evoke in their charge that, as Prime Minister Alain Juppé put it, France has become a place of "deep-seated conservatism." Mr. Chirac went even further: France, he said, is "sclerotic."

The idea is intriguing not least because "conservatism" is bere being used to identify people who, until recently, would have been identified as "progressives" nr "of the left." People, that is, who believed in a central role for the state in the economy, in the extension of social benefits, enveloping

welfare and a strong public school system. These bave all been defining characteristics of the French republic. A pact developed between the technocrats who, after emerging from top schools, planned the future of France as highly respected "fonctionnaires," and the labor unions that put those plans to work. This provided a bedrock for the country's development.

What Now?

At the heart of the unease now gripping France, there is the question of what new model, what new idea, to put in the old idea's place. In France even a partial dismantling of the state appears to threaten the core of the nation's values.

Moreover, in France the end of the cold war bas proved most troubling, not principally because of the strategic implications but because it meant the end of a dialectic between two ideologies.

The French mind has great difficulty with what is now called "la pensée unique" - that is, the single American-rooted ideology holding that a largely untrammeled market economy is good for mankind. The French want somehow to represent an alternative model, one in which France's charity and Its cheeses are preserved. This in turn produces



A musician leaves the Paris Garnier Opera, where 600 protested plans to make them work more before qualifying for state benefits.

a form of conservatism

Andre Glucksmann, a philosopher, said: "France is indeed in a crisis, with respect to its own history and with respect to its place in the world. But it is not inherently conservative. It wants to know what image of itself to have." Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé, he added, "are simply not providing answers to these questions."

Mr. Chirac bas recently suggested that a German model might work in France. He talks a lot about the need for "dialogue" and "responsibility" — clear references to the German way of managing the economy through negotiation between employers and labor unions. But Germany still bothers France. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall it has absorbed 16 million new people and developed a successful economic drive to its east that has turned much of central Europe into a German "near abroad." France, in the same period, has stagnated.

Many French foreign policy decisions including initial resistance to German unification and to Boris Yeltsin, and support for Slobodan Milosevic and for Rwanda's Hutus - bave given an impression of disarray or cynicism that is hard to square with the ambition, expressed by Mr. Chirac, of being "an example to the world." Flailing to be such a presence. France has clashed repeatedly with the United States.

Inconsistencies also appear rampant in domestic affairs. In a single interview this month, Mr. Chirac suggested repeatedly that France's state should be slimmed and money better spent. But then he said the state railroad "will never be touched," French public service "will not be called into question," and the "acquis" will not be diluted.

Mixed Signals

As for European integration, the President and Prime Minister have recently made impassioned pleas for the introduction in 1999 of the common currency known as the Euro. At the same time, however, the Government has maintained the border controls it had vowed to abolish and has not made clear what sort of United States of Europe, if any, France has in mind.

Finally, Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé have held out as a goal the old French republican model of an inclusive society, marked by Its bumanism and its commitment to the equality of all before the law. But this appeal rooted in the notion of the universality of French civilization - has come as France bas turned inward, essentially scrapping the old law that established that anyone born in France was French.

"The message from the Government is confused," said Dominique Moisi, the deputy director of the French Institute of international Relations, an independent think tank. "The French are not being told very clearly what Europe to expect, what type of economy, or what society. The result is that people try to defend a status quo that is

The new conservatism in France is real. It is the expression of a society unmnored, with respect to the world and its past. But this conservatism also owes much to Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppè themselves, both products of the elite Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the school that always produced the "fonctionnaires" who guided France. The President and the Prime Minister thump the table, throw up their hands, inveigh against conservatism and talk of reform. But their oldschool instincts are deeply "conservative" and it shows.

Israel's Question-Mark Economy

Jeace Means Prosperity (Sort of)

By SE:GSCHMEMANN

JERUSALEM OBODY r Isril would dispute that the signing of theea agreement with the Palestinians in 193 dimarvels for the Israeli economy. Arual swth rates soared to 7 percent, countries that the Araboycott had frightened away began trading oenly wh Israel, and Israeli businessmen began doig busiess in their own name, rather than behind sole foren front.

So when P.me Mister Benjamin Netanyahu was elected last My aftereclaring the peace faulty and talking toughabout ti Palestinians, and when the political proces grounto a halt for six months, it was natural to assme thate boom days must be over for the economyas well.

Criticizig Mr. Nenyahu over the economy was sometimes nother wato criticize him for his policies toward Yas Arafat hen critics said his toughness was runnin down the enomy, they were arguing that all his polices were faig. His defenders retorted that the econory wasn't rely doing so badly after all, and that its prolems were of his doing.

All of which leave pen the question: Are peace

and prosprity linked?

Yes ind no, as the ul state of the Israeli economy shows. There are profins, to be sure. Tourism is down: there was plenty elbow room Christmas week m Bethishem's Mangetquare, and Jerusalem hotels had rooms to spare. Tit'el Aviv stock exchange has been ir the doldrums frome time. And the Finance Ministry's modest goal the coming year is a domestic product growth of 4 cent.

After Hebron, ti Budget

But what the Israelisiness community is really waiting to see is not so ch whether Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat resolve tedious issue of Hebron which they probably wills week — but whether Mr. Netanyahu succeeds (athis week) in cajoling his disputatious Parliament | cutting \$2 billion from the \$56 billion budget.

This is one problem is not of Mr. Netanyahu's doing. It was created by same Labor Government that brought the peace; tadministration lifted public-sector salaries to dizig heights, miscalculated revenues and saddled its pessors with a balance-ofpayments deficit of more 1 \$25 billion this year. Mr. Netanyahu and Finance lister Dan Meridor have been lobbying hard for that, but Israel's socialist traditions and narrow integroup politics promise a tough battle.

As for the other proble, the tourist trade, which plans many months aheadstill reacting to the terror attacks and the Lebaneseursion of last winter and spring, before Mr. Netany was elected. As for the stock exchange, it too was egling before the election, and, in fact, has recently in hints of revival.

Where doubts about tleace should have had an impact on the economy, suis in foreign investments, there has been curiously literange. On the contrary, stocks held by foreign inves on the Israeli exchange have mudged up from 1 percent before the May election to 11.3 percent u, and multinationals like Nestlé and Unilever have inued moving in.

"I'm a liberal and a lared Labor voter, but in



Yasir Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu met last week on the Israel-Gaza Strip border.

this regard, whoever tells you that complications from peace have resulted in capital flight is either deliberately misleading or ignorant," said Amotz Asa-El, the business editor of The Jerusalem Post.

This does not, however, suggest that investment and business are impervious to peace. Nobody in Israel would make such a claim. True, peace is not as quantifiable as other major contributors to prosperity like the arrival of tens of thousands of skilled Russian immigrants or American loan guarantees, but this peace did much more - it declared that Israel was a normal country to do business with. Foreign businessmen no

longer had to look over their shoulders at the Arabs or calculate the risk of war, and Israel came to be perceived as a potential gateway to the region's huge emerging market. "The peace process signaled to the business community that the Arab-Israeli dispute is over, and it's time to move ahead with business," said Benjamin Gaon, president of the Koor Industries conglomerate.

Conversely, nobody denies that prolonged disquiet could burt. "Of course," Mr. Meridor told an interviewer last week. "Peace is more attractive." The biggest reason there bas not been any visible damage so far, businessmen and analysts said, was that there has not been time or cause for that. Mr. Netanyahu pledged on coming to office to continue with the peace, to bring public spending under control, to deregulate and to. privatize. And all these may still come about.

In fact, Mr. Netanyahu's evident eagerness to con-

Netanyahu gets more blame for economic problems than he deserves — so far.

clude a deal on Hebron has demonstrated to many that even this ideological conservative has been forced to realize in just six months that stalling the political process can be very dangerous. "The peace process is irreversible," Mr. Gaon said. "There is no alternative."

Another explanation for the relatively sanguine prospects for Israel's economy is that the businessmen looking at Israel are those exploring emerging markets. a sort not easily put off. However dramatic its conflicts and politics, Israel is still far more stable, lucrative and promising than many other such places. And hightechnology industries, a dynamic sector of this economy, are probably less sensitive to political fluctuations,

since they require less labor, capital and space. "An investor does not look at Israel or the West Bank or Gaza through Mideast binoculars," said Mr. Asa-El, the journalist. "He has a broad vantage point, from which he scrutinizes South America, Asia, Russia. Each place has its risks, or they wouldn't be emerging markets. This place may be politically unpredictable, but there are solid aspects to this market which are not affected by occasional political upheavals. And even when there is a terror attack in Tel Aviv, it is not like conventional war - it does not affect the labor force, or

the workplace, especially the high-tech workplace." But while this may serve to explain the relative quiet up to now, it gives little guidance for the future. Peace is only one of many "ifs" hanging over the Israeli economy. There is the question of whether the Government will be able to slash its spending, and if it does, whether this will serve to devaluate the shekel and get exports flowing again. Then there is the question of whether Mr. Netanyahu will live up to his promises to deregulate and privatize state-owned enterprises. "The number of unknowns may not be so large," Ephrain Kleiman, an economist at Hebrew University, told The

Jerusalem Report. "But they are very unknown." And that, in effect, is what many people would say about Mr. Netanyahu himself after six months in office.

Revolution As a Relic

Continued From Page 1

Republic now compete at the ballot box as vigorously as they once did at the barricades.

But like an affecting museum piece, the Túpac Amaru hostage-taking has highlighted not only how much has changed in Latin America, but also how much remains the same.

It was a reminder that even after years of defeats, the Tupac Amaru group and its more doctrinaire rival. Shining Path, bave not fired their last shots.

And it was a reminder that the few Latin American guerrilla groups still active — here, in Colombia and in Mexico — come from lands where drug money is the new mother's milk of radical and mainstream politics

It is highly unlikely that any of these rebel groups will ever take power, but as long as those in Peru and Colombia can levy 'war taxes" on traffickers - and sometimes traffic themselves - they can survive without the international financial networks once provided by the Soviet bloc. (In Mexico's case, guerrilla ties to traffickers are not yet believed to be strong but the rebels, in two southern states, benefit from the army's need to focus on the war on drugs in the north.)

And Latin America is still poor, and deeply divided by class and race — the basic ingredients of revolution.

Where's Fidel Now?

Nevertheless, the "international correlation of forces," as the Marxists would say, has changed dramatically. A decade ago, Mr. Castro would have been cheering the Peruvians on, and the United States would have felt a need to be a counterweight to him. But both have taken back seats — allowing Japan to suggest to Peru's Gov-ernment that Havana might be enlisted to help end the crisis by offering the rebeis safe passage.

More striking still are the words surfacing from the Kremlin, once the vanguard of world revolution. President Boris Yeltsin suggested that Russia and the leading industrial powers might send anti-terrorist squads to

help the Peruvian Government. As for the Peruvians, their behavior since the storming of the Japanese residence Dec. 17 also has broken old molds. University students and working-class people living in the shantytowns that ring Lima have not taken to the streets or even painted up their walls with militant graffiti, as the students and workers of Managua and

Bogotá did in 1978 and 1980. Ernesto (Che) Guevara would be turning in his grave if he could have heard the lively conversation Nèstor Cerpa Cartolini, the Túpac Amaru leader, had with his captive businessmen last week. According to several people who bave been released, Mr. Cerpa endorsed some of the Peruvian Government's plans to privatize industries and pay its huge international debts. It was an acknowledgement that the old romantic, utopian visions that Latin American revolutionaries once clung to have been consigned to the dustbin of history although perbaps at a slower pace in Peru than else-

"The objective of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement is to negotiate," said Gustavo Gorriti, a leading Peruvian journalist. "But they must first show force or otherwise no one would be willing to concede anything to them. I don't view the hostage taking as the beginning of a new wave of revolution, but perhaps the first movement toward an end."

WEEKLY REVIEW

Ideas & Trends

Lies, Justice, the American Way

By JEFF STRYKER

S it always wrong to lie? Few would argue for the whole truth and nothing but the truth in all circumstances.

To most people, the minor lies we sprinkle in our daily conversations are a confection, a social lubricant, not a poison. What a nice dress! What a swell haircut! And deceptive practices for noble ends flourish in virtually every profession and in government. Sociologists masquerade as homeless people to study altruism. Police officers assume false identities to infiltrate irug rings. Civil rights advocates pose as job applicants and apartment seekers, to document racial discrimination.

But where is the line? When does a social lubricant become a sea of mendacity?

Last week a Federal jury in North Carollna ruled that producers at ABC's "Primetime Live" committed fraud during a 1992 undercover report of unsanitary practices at the Food Lion supermarket chain. ABC's hidden cameras caught workers tampering with expiration dates oo meat, bleaching spoiled chicken and selling cheese gnawed by rats. Food Lion, with more than 1,400 stores in the South, says it suffered losses of \$1.7 billion to 2.5 billion after the program.

The supermarket chain, rather than attack the story, challenged the reporting tactics. And the jury found that the ABC producers, in obtaining jobs with Food Llon, called to disclose their employment with the network, lied about references and fabricated previous grocery store work experience. ("I really miss working in a grocery store, and I love meat wrapping." read ooe application, adding, "I would like to make a career with the company.") The jury returns tomorrow to decide damages.

This case concerns not just the practice of undercover journalism but the value of ly-

ing for a noble cause. After all, ABC has fairly reveled in its undercover reports because of their social value. Its cameras have caught Congressmen frolicking on junkets paid for by lobbyists, students selling guns, doctors misreading mammograms and car salesmen quoting higher prices to blacks than to whites. The defenders of deceit place the Food Lion case squarely in the tradition of muckraking journalism.

Trust Busters

Some journalists worry that the Food Lion verdict will have a chilling effect on investigative reporting, much the way that medical researchers might balk at baving to stop using placebos in drug testing. But enthusiasm for deceit is far from universal. When journalists can pick and choose when to tell the truth, the public does not know when to believe them. So is socially motivated lying worth the erosion of public trust?

Many philosophical and religious traditions condemn all lies and deceit. Perhaps the best-known recent exposition of this sentiment is "Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life" (Vintage Books, 1989) by Sissela Bok, the philosopher. After exploring the many ways people deceive one another and themselves - from puffery in letters of recommendation to placebos to unmarked police cars - she decides lies are seldom worth the social cost. As lies spread, she writes, "Trust is damaged." She describes trust as a "social good to be protected just as much as the air we breathe or the water we

Yet this year alone there were numerous cases of institutionally sanctioned deception. Local authorities instituted stings with names like Operation Protect Kids in which underage youngsters tried to buy cigarettes. In Operation Clean Hands, researchers hid in bathroom stalis or presended to comb their

hair in restrooms in five American cities in order to check whether 6,333 men and women wasbed their hands after using the toilet. (The study, by Wirthlin Worldwide, found that many do not.)

Lying, for all its potential social value, is almost oever called by its real name. Public officials rarely admit, "I lled," even if they believe in the cause they lied for. Instead, euphemisms bloom. The passive tense is used to distance the liar from the lie ("mistakes were made"). Broken promises are not lies but unfulfilled hopes. Even though Oliver L. North has been convicted of lying to Congress during the Iran-contra hearings, he prefers to say that Congress was misled. When Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was confronted last week with having lied to the House Ethics Committee about whether he used taxpayer money to set up a college course he taught, he said he had submitted "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable" in-

When William Safire dubbed First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton a "congenital liar in the first sentence of bis Jan. 9 column in The New York Times, he followed with 13 variations of the verb "to lie" io the ensuing commentary; a firestorm ensued.

Truth and Consequences

One of the first laws of socially responsible deceit is to call it by another name - undercover reporting, a blind trial, a sting.

In a chapter on friendship and altruism in "The Varnished Truth" (University of Chicago, 1993). David Nyberg said Professor Bok's "atmosphere of trust" is in fact a "delicately balanced mixture of the essential gases of communication, namely, truth telling and deceiving." As he put it, "An atmosphere of pure truth telling is no more fit to support frieodship than an atmosphere of pure oxygen is fit to support life."



Oliver L. North being sworn in before testifying the Iran-contra affair in 1986.

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Italian Concerti Grossi: Sammartini, Albinoni, Geminiani, Vivaldi, Locatelli, etc. Capella Istropolitana, Jaroslav Kr(e)chek.

Gesualdo - Completa Sacred Music for Five Voices, Oxford Camerata, Jeremy Summerly conducting.

Spanish Festival: Glinka, Elgar Massenet, etc. Czecho-Slovak RSO, conducted by Keith Clark.

Invitation to Dance: Ballet Music from Faust, Giselle, Lakme, etc. Czacho-Slovak RSO, Ondrej Lenard.



Gneg/Johansen: String Quartets, Oslo String Quartet.



French Chansons: Josquin Desprez, Jannequin, etc. The Scholars of London.

Leoncavallo: I Pagliacci (highlights). Minam Gauci, Nicola Martinucci, Czeco-Slovak RSO, Alexander Rahbari conducting.



Mahler: Symphony No.1 "Titan," Polish NRSO under Michael

Mozart: Arias and Duets from magic Flute, Don Giovanni, etc. Andrea Martin, Donna Robin, Capella Istropolitana, Vienna Mozart Orchestra, Konrad Leitner conducting.

Rimsky-Korsakov: Shaherazade/Tzar Saltan, Philharmonia Orchestra, London, Enrique Batiz conducting.

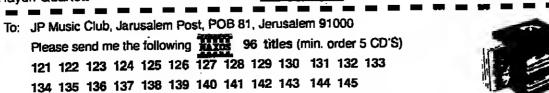


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Continued From Page 1

has been taken over by lunatics and ought to fall. Other alarmists have said tile same thing to no effect, but alari, says doomsayers in geninvestors, watch. Mr. Greenspan's, eral vell-intended exaggerators
brows the way Filipinos watch
Mount Pinatubo. The market fell, if

Rachel Carson, the writer and biologist, single-handedly jump-started the environmental movement in 1962 with "Silent Spring." She indulged in her share of exaggeration, devoting one heart-rending chapter to the looming extinction by pesticide polsoning of the American robin, a bird that was not a dodo then and is oot now. That said, not many would deny that she had a good point, or that her book changed the world.

Paul Ehrlich's 1968 jeremiad, "The Population Bomb," said flatly that humankind's race against famine was over and man had lost; that starvation would sweep the world in the 1970's as the number of bungry mouths outstripped the food supply. The book altered Americans' basic concept of progress and popularized the idea of sustainable growth. It also was wrong: the 1970's "green revolution" eased the hunger crisis, at least for the time being. Modern famines occur because of political problems, not agricultural ones.

Mr. Ehrlich says his error was scientific misjudgment, not hype, and still believes the day of reckoning has only been put off. He nevertheless agrees that "The Populatioo Bomb" was a polemic, start to finish. "It would be intellectually satisfying to say the real impact is through reasoned discourse," be said. "But in my view the real impact isn't in reasoned discourse. Media attention. press coverage and, if necessary, alarmism at least set an agenda. And that way you can have a debate "

He is not exactly arguing that the end justifies the means. But as "The Population Bomb" shows, even the gravest alarm bas a sort of credibility trip-wire. Forecast the apocalypse and at least one horseman had better show up quickly; long-term urgency is an oxymoron.

The environmental movement has suffered a credibility backlash as its exponents have sounded louder alarms about the overheated, undershielded, deforested planet while ordinary Americans gazed out their Ford windshields and saw less smog each summer than the one before.

The environmentalists and the declining-America school of doomsayers have spawned their own counteralarmist movements, squads of social and scientific bright-siders aiming to debunk the Gloomy Gusses. Some are flat-Earth types who deny

guhat there is nothing less than a contacy to roll back environmen-Amean Enterprise Institute scholar wmay be the original counterless. Int view, alarmists divert people admoney from real problems braing the specter of a sky that is was about to fail, but never

seems tackally start dropping. "Gom ra Gomorrah, I love ya, Gomorn; bu're always a day away." moks.

Publicolic wise, Mr. Watten-berg is phab right. European sci-entists kiled all the planet into a tailspin at sprig by declaring that male ferity wi plummeting, perhaps duto polition, only to have America scients conclude six months fer that lales were plenty virile; itwas thescientists' math that hadost its otency. Silicone breast iplants terified the other half of t planet and spawned a multibilli-dollar leal industry be-

Whydoesnt the sky fll? Alamism ofterworks

fore oth scientists bean to conclude th the threat mathave been artificia enhanced.

But the are at least to flaws in asking irmists to be rasonable, soft-spon folk. For one thing, a reasonæ alarmist is not in alarmist anynore; he's the host of a Sundayiews interview program, prattli on about the other hand. 'Will t Earth Remain Habitable?'' asked Op-Ed article in The New York nes 10 years ago Such a questidoes not deserve an answer like 'me say yes; some say no; still ors don't know."

Thecond is that the alarmists could right. Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland is the butt of jokes in the 1980 hen he began to suggest that spraeodorants and leaky car air conducts posed a threat because theyere eating away the Earth's shieof atmospheric ozone. Last year won a Nobel Prize, and the wor production of chlorofinorocars has been cut so dramatically tthe ozone layer is now expect-

ed eal itself ahead of schedule. Athough Mr. Quayle has never rea recovered from his alerts aborcoming meteors and Murphy Brt, many now agree that co

To Shop, Perchance Nonstop

By DAVID J. MORROW

EVIN was busier than one of Santa's elves this holiday season. Not only did he drop hundreds of dolars on presents, he also spent hours stashing them in out-ofthe-way places.

Days before Christmas, two books, each wrapped in expensive paper, were nestled beneath his bed. A pricey jacket for his girlfriend was tucked among the socks and underwear in his chest of drawers. A closet full of fancy clothes concealed an expensive knife sharpener, snapped up weeks before in a sale.

Though hiding gifts before Christmas is common, Kevin keeps some hidden year-round. You see, his girlfriend has told him that if he does not stop buying things, she will leave

Kevin, who earns \$15,000 a year as an adviser in a mental health center in lowa, says he just cannot stop buying things -- from magazine subscriptions to bousehold appliances. The knife sharpener, for example, still has no intended recipieot and remains buried in the closet after the holiday. In two years, he has racked up \$16,000 in credit-card debt.

"I can go for a little more than a week without hitting the stores, but then I get tense for some reason," said Kevin, 38, who spoke on the condition that his full name not be used. "Christmas shopping - it's really hard to control myself, because I have an excuse to shop."

Easy as it is to exceed one's budget during the holidays; compulsive buyers like Kevin face that temptagion with weakened defenses: Some leading psychologists estimate that five million Americans, or about 2 percent of the population, are compulsive buyers. But that estimate may be conservative. A recent study by the University of Minnesota found that 2 to 8 percent of the population suffers from the problem.

While compulsive buying can wreck one's finances any time of year, it is especially treacherous during the holidays. Compulsive spenders tend to be grand champion Christmas givers, showering their loved ones with expensive goods that would make even Donald Trump

smile. "Most compulsive spenders are people pleasers," said Janet Damon,: a Manhattan psychoanalyst who speclatizes in compulsive disorders. When a compulsive spender buys .. to their family finances. Some go on gifts, he's trying to buy love and periodic buying binges and some -power. This isn't really about money. 'ht's about the feelings of anxiety they are trying to relieve through the spending.'

Barbara, a 47-year-old management consultant in Los Angeles, concedes that she has a spending prob-

219.58

188.30

225 78

189.15

189.211

344.05

242.41

211.38

186.13

506.23

228.14

318.34

82.24

129.37

589.03

148.60

184.82

225.09

1,209.72

PERFORMANCE

Country

Australia

Austria

Belgium

8ıazil

8ritain

Canada

Finland

.Germany

Hong Kong

Indonesia

Ireland

Malaysıa

Mexico

Pacific Basin

P/Vorid

t/Furope/Pacific

ttaly

France

Denmark^{*}

lem and says she recently succumbed to an urge to go Christmas shopping, spending 15 times more than she had planned. "When I buy these presents, I feel so powerful and so generous," she said. Like Kevin and others interviewed for this article, she spoke on the condition that she not be fully identified.

Once they recognize their problem, some compulsive shoppers seek help, either at the insistence of others or at the point of financial collapse. They may try private therapy or credit counseling — sometimes at the proceding of a bankruptcy court. Kevin and Barbara are two of many who have joined Debtors Anony. mous, a 12-step self-help group that is modeled on Alcoholics Anonymous. The program encourages membera to shed their credit cards and to adopt a strict spending plan that focuses on realistic needs.

Founded in 1978 in New York City, Debtors Anonymous now has more than 400 groups worldwide. Some chapters hold extra meetings to help their members cope during the winter holidays. And there is always information available from the group (212 642-8220).

Of course, giving in to an occasional splurge does not make a person a compulsive shopper. Who among us has not overspent sometime? Maybe it was a \$500 Armanl suit at Saks Fifth Avenue that was just too good a deal to pass up, or, this holiday season, a Tickle Me Elmo doll that little Susie had her heart set on, even though the going price had escalated to \$500 on the Internet.

Nor is it just handling money poorly that distinguishes a compulsive spender. Plenty of people could benefit from instituting a budget and from some financial education. But compulsive spenders tend to exhibit serious emotional problems as well as financial problems, psychologists

People who can't handle money well have a skill deficit," said Dr. Jerrold Pollak, a psychologist with the psychiatry department at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. "Compulsive spenders can't control the urge to buy, and they may also suffer from depression or anxiety with it.'

Holiday buying sprees merely exacerbate problems for compulsive buyers. They spend heavily yearround, no matter what their budgets will bear and no matter what it does shop every day. They most often pay on credit - compulsive spenders usually carry more than 10 charge cards, psychologists say, creating a debt load that can quickly swell into six figures.

Like many compulsions, the spending babit often starts at a young age. According to the study by

YTD Dividend

16

21

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6

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5

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19

24

10.

15

Yield

4.18

1.88

3.58

1.69

3.90

1.96

1.65

2.12

2.81

1.61

3.10

1.54

3.43

2.21

0.81

1.08

1.06

IN LOCAL CURR.

Index - % Chg

183.58

152.17

178.40

381.91

243.80

187.53

278.41

236.42

173.91

150.49

502.90

330.72

267.56

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573.67

109.03

144,48

195.21

10,389.41

OTY

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27.9

38.7

26.4

23.8

30.7

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- 86

20.9

19.1

- 21

8.1

14.8

7.6

the University of Minnesota, the typical compulsive buyer started as a teen-ager but did not recognize the full magnitude of the problem until 10 years later.

Psychologists bave long pointed to women as the chief sufferers. And recent studies - the one from Minnesota and one by the University of Iowa School of Medicine released in - have identified the typical compulsiva buyer as a college-educated woman in her 30's.

But men, psychologists now say, may have been undercounted. They are less likely to admit to a compulsive spending problem - and to participate in a study about it. Generally, they also have higher salaries and more lines of credit, making it relatively easy to spend frivolously.

According to an annual survey of shopper attitudes by American Express, both men and women allotted an average of \$95 for each persoo on their gift list this boliday season. But men said their total spending would be \$1,024 on average, 21 percent more than the \$808 that women said

they would spend. They also buy differently. "The things that men buy tend to cost more than what women buy," Dr. Pollak said. "Men buy things like technology and appliances, expensive toys, if you will while women buy clothes and makeup."

Another misperception is that overspending is confined to people of modest means who feel constrained by meager budgets. Barbara, the management consultant, is also an author and public speaker, and she earns \$100,000 a year.

Her latest lapse was on a trip to a small novelty shop to pick up a boliday present for a friend. She planned to cap her spending at \$30. One hour later, she walked out with two vests made from men's ties, a sculpture, three skirts, a pair of earrings and the \$30 picture frame - for a total of

At home, Barbara stuffed the booty in a closet just for gifts. She says she seldom remembers what she bought for whom, and try as she may to stick to a single-gift regimen, over the course of a year she may buy five gifts for the same person for the same occasion.

The shopping fever even extends to the grocery store. A month ago, Barbara noticed an advertisement saying that anyone who spent \$50 at her local store could get a free turkey. The supermarket might as well have challenged Wyatt Earp to a

"One of the perils for compulsive

spenders over tha holidays is the deals the stores run," Barbara said. 'They are so tempting. I don't think I even went in there for a turkey. But, before you know it, I was consumed with having enough stuff in my buggy to get the free turkey.

'Ooh, how about some Bailey's? Yeah, a bottle of tequila, we'll need it over the holidays.' I wound up spending \$140."

The bills for these sprees are mounting, and Barbara now owes \$60,000 on 10 credit cards, on top of her \$200,000 mortgage. She says she has been getting loans that average. \$6,000 a year from her mother to help pay her bills - loans she wants to repay.

What about the interest rates oo those credit cards? "I can't tell you what they are," said Barbara, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Southern California. "I always tell myself that I bank in the fog bank. I have a nine-year-old car, and I can't afford to buy a new one. I haven's even filed my 1995 taxes."

One trait shared by many compulsive spenders - and particularly strong among men, psychologists say - is the desire to be a big shot. Buying expensive gifts and dinners is one way to look important.

For years, Matthew, a former Pittsburgh marketing executive who is now a struggling Hollywood actor, made sure to buy Christmas gifts that would make the recipients gasp. He would comb the malls, gold American Express card in hand, eager to snap up the right Hugo Boss suit or Chanel purse for his family and friends. With a \$130,000 salary, Matthew considered no gift beyond his reach.

When it came to the holidays and birthday gifts, if I dido't make the significant women in my family cry after they opened it, I thought I had failed," said Matthew, 37. "Every year had to be better than the last. And the only way to do that was to spend more money."

If Marthew did not like a date's Group dinners with colleagues were designer one instead. carefully orchestrated, with Matthew instructing the waiter in advance to give him the check.

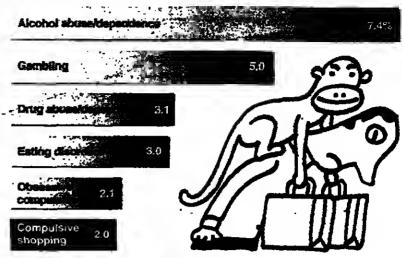
"When the restaurant's check came," he said, "my friends were sure to see me flip out my American Express card: I was trying to feel better about myself. It was one big ego gratification."

Matthew played the big spender until he hit bottom. His company filed for bankruptcy protection in 1992, leaving him out of work. He had traded up to a new Cadillac every. two years, lived in an expensive house and racked up \$175,000 in debt-Adding to his misery, the Internal Revenue Service sent him a bill for \$40,000 in unpaid back taxes.

"I joined Debtors Anonymous and worked out a plan to pay all that money back," he said recently. "The biggest change was the Christmas giving. That next Christmas, when I

The Burdens We Carry

The percentage of the population estimated to suffer from some common disorders over the course of a year.



Figures are based on percentage of people over age 18, except the one for eating disorders, which includes people of all ages

Sources. National Institute of Mental Health, National Association of Anorexa Nervosa and Associated Disorders: National Council on Compulsive Gambling

had no money, I baked oatmeal cookies with my nephews. It turned out everyone liked the cookies just as

well as the expensive sweaters." From gifts for family and friends to gifts for clients, the spendiog fire often spreads rapidly.

Al, a New York talent agent, describes how he once routinely gave his clients video-arcade machines, Rolex watches and pool tables at

'Christmas had always been a double-edged sword," said Al, 46, who earns \$250,000 annually. "All through the year, I spend money on myself. Well, at the holidays, not only was I spending on myself, I was spending on other people. If I spent \$100 on you 10 years ago, this year your gift had to cost \$1,500."

Shopping at Saks for a simple \$25 clothes - even on a first date - he sweater could make him feel so anxwould spring for a new ensemble tous that he would snap up a \$500

"I would get such an exciting rush when I bought the expensive item," he said. "Buying things gave me an identity. I was the guy who bought Armani and wore Armani. All my identification about who I was came from the outside, the shoes I wore, the car I drove, the gifts I bought. I wanted people to like me."

The balloon burst in 1987. Al walked into his boss's office one morning and was told the I.R.S. was garnishing \$150 a week from his wages to recoup thousands of dollars in back taxes, Facing \$20,000 in credit-card debt, Al enrolled in Debtors Anonymous.

"Those first few years, I felt like I was no good," Al said. "Since I had lost my ability to spend money on people, especially at Christmas, then I was a bad person. Eventually, I learned to really shop and find

Accounting Rules May be Irrelevant

By FLOYD NORRIS

RE American accounting standards, developed at great cost and pain over many decades, about to be rendered irrelevant? Will they be replaced by a far less specific set of rules that give companies much more freedom to choose which accounting practices will make them look better?

Amazingly ecough, some people think so. "We have an agreement," says Sir Bryan Carsberg, the secretary general of the International Accounting Standards Committee. After his committee completes its standards in 1998, he says, the Securities and Exchange Commission will allow foreign companies to sell securities in this country if their accounting conforms to the international rules, whether or not it meets the generally accepted accounting principles now required to the United States.

And if that bappens, there is little doubt that American companies will think it unfair to force them to comply with more stringent rules.

The expectations began building this spring, when the S.E.C. and other securities regulators reached an agreement with Sir Bryan's group, saying that if the standards were good enough, they would be accept-

The qualification was largely ignored until Arthur Levitt Jr., the S.E.C. chairman, told an accounting group this month that the international standards must be comprehensive and of high quality, and be rigorously interpreted and applied. Acceptance, be said, "is not a foregone cooclusion."

There is, he added, "no doubt in my mind that their acceptability to U.S. investors will depend on how well those standards measure up to our own." And be said the Financial Accounting Standards Board would continue to set American rules,

which would apply to American companies. The demand for these companies to get in on the international standards would be rejected, he seemed to be saying.

In the past, the international standards were notable largely for the wide discretion they gave companies. In effect, they said that if ooe country allowed an accounting technique, it must be O.K. The international rules are being tightened, but in many areas they will still allow more discretion than do American standards.

There is something to be said for such discretion, if we can trust auditors to enforce the standards rigorously and to stand up to companies that want to use the discretion to put out misleading figures. But the evidence that big accounting firms deserve such confidence is, at best, mixed.

Some business groups are angry at the F.A.S.B. and its rules, and would welcome more freedom. They may see the interoational route as a way to get around a tiresome busy-

American stock markets want more foreign listings and have been frustrated by the S.E.C.'s insistence that foreign companies must largely meet American standards before they can trade here. Whila many foreign companies have listed, some may be stalling in the hope that the weaker international standards will enable them to enter our markets

without meeting our rules. This is important for investors because it is accounting that provides the report card on how their companies are doing. And if accounting standards are perceived as too lax as German and British ones have clearly been in the past - then investor confidence over time can be sapped. The S.E.C. should be very careful to make sure that the interoational rules are adequate — in every respect - before they are deemed adequate for American markets.

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WORLD INDEX In U.S. dollars.	25
	500
	75
fn U.S. dollars:	50

Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sechs & Co. and Standard & Poor's. in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuar

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rales as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

0.05	RESEST			
Exchange rates	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar German marks to the U.S. dollar Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar U.S. dollars to the British pound	115.30 1.5533 1.3679 1.6920	114.30 1.5517 1.3685 1.5725	+0.87 +0.10 -0.04 +1.17	103.51 1.4378 1.3645 1.5496

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markels; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

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23-27: Dow Reaches a High for 1996 as Bond Prices Also Rise

1.30

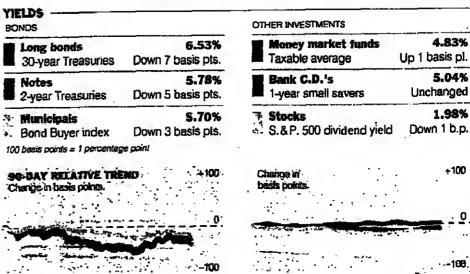
2.13

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PRICES		DOMESTIC BONDS		AROUND THE WORLD	
Broad market S. & P. 500 index	Up 1.05% 756.76	Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	Up 0.35% 195.90	European stocks F.TActuaries Europe	Up 1.07% 235.71
Rive chips Dow 30 industrials	Up 1.18% 6,560.91	Municipals Bond Buyer index	Up 0.45% 117.69	Asian stocks D F.TActuaries Pacific Basin	о wп 0.99% 148.60
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Up 0.69% 359.17	Corporates Merrill Lynch Master index	Սթ 0.37% 852.35	Gold New York cash price Foreign Indexes are given in dollar terms.	Up 0.14% \$369.80
90-DAY RELATIVE THEND	-15%		•		. 153 0

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Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datestream, Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs



WEEKLY REVIEW

The New Hork Times

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Cities Will Bear Brunt of Welfare Law Fallout

To the Editor:

"Food Stamps for the Unemployed," your Dec. 26 editorial on the Federal welfare law's provision prohibiting able-bodied, childiess adults from collecting food stamps unless they work at least 20 hours a week, asks the right question about jobs: What happens if counties fail to provide the tens of thousands of slots that will be needed?" The answer is an upsurge of calls to 911.

Federal and state disinvestment in the nation's poorest families will impose harsh and expensive burdens on cities and towns, the providers of last resort and the home of almost every jobless American.

'Once Villainous, Now Virtuous'

(Week in Review, Dec. 22), on the repackaging of historical villains into

heroes on the movie screen, ends by

quoting Prof. Ted Cohen of the Univer-

sity of Chicago, who says: "There are

other sources. There is history, and

history isn't just any old story you

want to believe." It would be lovely to

think that the moviegoing public reads

history and compares the facts with

the fiction of film and television. But

we have become a society that does

Most people seeing "Evita" proba-

bly assume they are viewing history.

just as most people probably think of

Mozart as he was pictured in "Ama-

deus," Drama is under no obligation to

the facts. But let's not fantasize that

the public sees fiction for what it is.

When the visual media are as power-

not explore beyond the surface.

President Clinton's signature on the welfare bill set in motion fundamental changes affecting hundreds of thousands of families and children. It also had significant consequences for city leaders. Even though few cities have direct responsibility for welfare services and benefits, these changes are likely to affect municipal credit ratings, services and revenues.

For cities and towns, especially those that have had disproportionate numbers eligible for assistance, less income for families translates into sharply reduced business and empty rental buildings, resulting in losses to the property tax rolls.

Most cities have neither the expe rience nor the resources for the responsibilities that are coming their way by default. There is more passa ing of the burden here than reform and that burden will stop at the last level of government serving citizens

President Clipton has said that the welfare reform bill as enacted into law should be modified before its ful implementation.

We agree and ask to have a seat at the table when the changes are con-MARK SCHWARTZ

Washington, Dec. 26, 1996 The writer, a member of the Oklahoma City Council, is president of the National League of Cities.

Unfinished Business With Russia

The idea of abolishing nuclear weapons picked up some powerful support recently when a group of America's most distinguished military officers endorsed that long-term goal. One of the converts was retired Air Force Gen. Lee Butler, who directed the country's nuclear forces just a few years ago. His eloquent defense of a laudable if still unachievable idea should serve as a timely reminder that the United States and Russia have a left a good deal of arms control business unfinished in the years since

the end of the cold war. As President Clinton prepares for his second term, he faces no more vital national security issue than locking in the reductions in nuclear weapons already promised by Washington and Moscow and moving on to negotiate the next phase of cuts. While international attention has been drawn to other issues like terrorism, the effort to trim nuclear arsenals further bas quietly stalled, and could even be reversed if a renewed drive is not made by Mr. Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

Since the United States and Russia started cutting their long-range nuclear weapons six years ago, the number of American strategic warbeads has dropped from about 13,000 to 8,000 and Russian totals have dwindled from about 11,000 to 7,000. Additional warheads are being dismantled every week in America and Russia. Each country still. maintains many thousands of smaller, hattlefield nuclear warheads oot covered by any treaty.

But the engine of the next large round of strategic warhead cuts, the second arms reductioo treaty between the United States and Russia that was signed by President Bush and Boris Yeltsin in 1993 and approved by the Senate this year, bas oot yet been ratified by the Russian parliament. Under the treaty each country would reduce to around 3,500 the number of nuclear warheads deliverable to distant targets. The treaty would also eliminate the fearsome land-based misslles that carry up to 10 warheads each. Until Russia ratifies the treaty, these reductions cannot be guaranteed and negotia-

The agency that oversees Medicare and Medic-

aid has issued sensible rules that limit the financial

penalties managed care plans can impose on doc-

tors who exceed a plan's targets for ordering tests

and procedures. Other new rules reflect a growing

recognition that the Federal Health Care Financing

Administration must assume responsibility for

monitoring the quality of care that health plans

operating under its auspices deliver to enrollees.

the last refuge of traditional fee-for-service cover-

age, almost 5 million elderly, or 12 percent of the

Medicare population, and about 13 million poor

people, a third of the Medicaid population, are

enrolled in managed care. These numbers make the

Managed care has cut health care inflation in

agency the largest purchaser of managed care in

half by generally paying doctors fixed fees regard-

less of their patients' needs. But that powerful

incentive to cut out needless care also creates

anxiety that doctors will cut out some necessary

care, even though studies show no systematic prob-

lem. The new rules are designed to alleviate public

plans to eliminate so-called gag rules, which pre-

vent doctors from informing patients about pro-

cedures the plan will not cover. Now the agency will

prohibit plans from exposing doctors to financial

The agency previously told managed care

Though the Medicare and Medicaid plans are

That is a notable change of direction.

Raising Medicare Standards -

tions will be delayed on a third arms reduction accord that could hring each side's warhead total below 2,000. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin ought to find a way to secure parliamentary approval. The obstacles are considerable but not insuperable.

The Russians for starters, would like a new agreement clarifying the scope of the 24-year-old treaty that limits intercontinental missile defenses. The missile defense treaty allows sbort-range antimissile systems like the Patriots used during the Persian Gulf war. But with new technologies extending the range and speed of these systems, Moscow wants clear definitions spelled out on which categories of missiles are permitted and which are banned. That may mean abandoning or modifying an ambitious new missile defense system oow being tested by the Navy that teases the boundaries between short range and long range.

Another roadblock is Moscow's continuing concern over NATO's plans to admit new members from Central Europe, moving Western armies and potentially Western missiles closer to Russia's borders. Washington and its allies are now trying to work out a formal new relationship between NATO and Russia that may alleviate Russia's concerns.

The Russians are also worried about the cost of dismantling warheads and the possible need to build new single-warhead missiles to get Moscow's overall total back to the permitted ceiling once Russla's multiple-warhead missiles are eliminated. Securing the Russian reductions is well worth some modest American financial assistance. The need for new missiles can be eliminated if Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin can reach agreement in principle sometime soon to bring warhead totals down below 2,000 in a third arms reduction treaty that could be negotiated over the oext few years.

With Mr. Yeltsin regaining strength after his neart surgery, he and Mr. Clinton will find no better opportunity for historic achievement in their second terms than making further deep reductions in nu-

penalties that exceed 25 percent of their annual

income. These are reasonable rules that will not

substantially alter practices of most managed care

that will improve practices by Medicare and Medic-

aid managed care plans and potentially by plans

throughout the private sector. The policy requires

each plan to survey its enrollees each year to

ask how patients were treated and how satisfied

they were with their treatment. The agency has

often pointed with pride to extremely low adminis-

trative costs as proof of its efficiency. But what the

rock-bottom administrative costs really proved is

that the agency was not doing much administering

information will be rudimentary, probably docu-

menting little more than how long it took patients to

see their primary doctors and how satisfied they

were with the results. But over time the survey

could evolve into a sophisticated report card that

would tell the agency which plans, including its fee-

for-service system, were treating patients the best.

Of course, processing surveys and taking action will

increase the agency's administrative costs - but

The oew rules are constructive and well de-

that is an outcome Congress should accommodate.

signed to alleviate worries about managed care

among the elderly and poor. They also move Gov-

ernment oversight to a higher standard.

The survey marks a new direction. Initially, the

The agency has also issued an important rule

It is impossible to separate historiful a factor in so many lives and when cal facts from the way people "feel" thinking is supplanted by advertising, about those facts. That is why history. people accept most of what is put

Ithaca, N.Y., Dec. 24, 1996

JUDITH KELLOCK

Necessary Distortions To the Editor: All of history is a blur. When its tale is related through written scholarly works or a movie for the masses, it most necessarily distort fact. If we visualize Eva Perón as a "secondrate radio actress [who] transformed herself into one of the most powerful people in Latin America," as suggested in your Dec. 22 Week in Review article, how will we characterize our 40th President? Or Nelson Mandela

"real-life villains" is a problem; unique to American film makers is

Your Dec. 22 Week in Review arti-

cle's suggestion that glorifying

Serbs Will Struggle for Democracy Themselves

and Lech Walesa? Criminal and ter-

remains dynamic, and events of half a

century ago are still discussed, writ-

ten and argued about. The entertain-

ment industry should be congratulat-

ed rather than vilified for producing

films capable of evoking thought rath-

er than serving up the same old

BRIAN MACNAMARA

Warwick, N.Y., Dec. 24, 1996

rorist, or leader and bero?

pose solutions. What did interest them

Examples, Please

To the Editor:

In "Serbia Has No Vaclay Havel" (Op-Ed, Dec. 20), Laura Silber argues that the Serbian opposition serves Western Support As mem- :." bers of a Brandeis University delegation who recently returned from Belgrade, we agree.

The students, professors and activ-. ists with whom we met understand that national renewal is a long process whose ultimate success depends upon the ingenuity and perseverence of the Serbian people. But if the growth of civil society is necessarily a home-grown affair, there is also the need for outside nutrients.

The National Community Building Network, a consortium of 23 domestic initiatives supported by major American foundations including Ford, MacArthur, Kellogg and Rockefeller, has produced a rich body of experience on grassroots reform that civic practitioners in Serbia might draw from and adapt.

None of the Serbs with whom we spoke wanted foreign experts to prowas the chance for peer exchanges so that lessons could be shared about ways to rebuild democracy from the

Belgrade Distress Call

To the Editor: An item whose significance was lost in your Dec. 26 caption on a photograph showing protesters in Belgrade is that the Serbian flag is flying upside-down, the international sign of distress.

What better opportunity for Serbia's ally, Russia, and the United States to apply pressure on Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, to capitulate to nascent democratic forces? In addition to preventing internecine bloodshed, the two superpowers could continue to build common cause and shed suspicions that have resurfaced because of recent

spy scandals. YURA ANDREIEV Falls Church, Va., Dec. 26, 1996

N.R.A.'s Lost Clout

To the Editor:

Electoral losses related to the gun control issue are just one indicator of the diminishing influence of the National Rifle Association (front page, Dec. 24). The N.R.A. has also sustained repeated setbacks in its other principal interest: hunting

Voters this year sided with animal advocates, and even some fair-minded sportsmen, over the rifle association in six states that decided statewide ballot initiatives addressing trophy hunting and commercial trapping. in spite of a blitz of N.R.A. advertising, voters outlawed steeljaw leghold trapping in Colorado and Massachusetts; rejected hound hunting and baiting of bears and other predators in Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington; barred airborne hunting of wolves in Alaska and maintained a longstanding han on the trophy hunting of mountain lions

in California. Between 1972 and 1990, we animal protection advocates did not prevail in a single initiative fight, largely because of the influence of the gun lobby. Since 1990, we have had 10 statewide wins against the gun groups - a mark not only of our increasing organizational growth but of an atrophying in the N.R.A.'s political muscle.

WAYNE PACELLE Vice President, Humane Society Washington, Dec. 26, 1996

Science Meets Poetry

To the Editor:

Science Times's lead article on Dec. 24 examines the theory that ghosts of prehistoric beasts of prey account for the speed of the pronghorn, a presentday species of antelope.

Sometimes, poetry is decades ahead of science. Robinson Jeffers wrote these lines in the 1940's: "What but the wolf's tooth whittled so fine / The fleet limbs of the antelope? .../ Violence has been the sire of all the world's values." He went on to make the point that the buman species is also a throwback to early beginnings: "Who would remember Helen's face / Lacking the terrible halo of spears? / Who formed Christ but Herod and Caesar? ... / Violence, the bloody sire of all the world's values."

Does all this portend a recapitulation of our vilest instincts? Perhaps not, if we can see who we were and can be. Isn't that the mission of enlightened science as well as EUGENE GRAMM

Forest Hills, Queens, Dec. 26, 1996

The New York Times Company 229 West 43d St., N.Y. 10036-3959

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Chairman

Don't Know Much About History, but We Love the Movies undermined by the examples used. "Evita" was written hy Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice and directed by Alan Parker. Englishmen all, last time anyone checker "The English Patient" was written and directed by Anthony Mingbella who is also English. "Michael Collins" was written and directed by

Neli Jordan, an Irishman. "The Peo-

ple vs. Larry Flynt" was directed by

Milos Forman, who is Czech. Your only example that rings true is "Bonnie and Clyde," in which two killers were turned into romantic adventurers. It was written by David Newman and Robert Benton and directed by Arthur Penn - all, um MARTIN CASELLA Americans. New York, Dec. 23, 1996

The writer is a screenwriter.

Collins Wasn't Terrorist

To the Editor: -

"Once Villainous, Now Virtuous" (Week in Review, Dec. 22) says that 'in 'Michael Collins,' Llam Neeso turns terrorism into patriotism Collins was far from a terrorist. A ter leading the Irish war of independence with the support of two-thirds of the democratically elected Irish members of Parliament, he negotiated a peace treaty with Britain, founded the democratic Irish Free State and insured its survival hy facing down a military coup. Faithlessness to fact seems to be found not only in recent movies but also in your criti-ADRIAN E. RAFTERY Seattle, Dec. 22, 1996

Estate Tax Avoidance Didn't Increase Inequity

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 22 front-page discussion movements whatever its flaws, de pottom up. "Paul ARONA of estate and gift taxation is remark-JOAN HOFFMAN, LAURENCE SIMONS, able for what it does not disclose. Waltham, Mass., Dec. 26, 1996 b. You quote 1995 figures, but you .. not report that in the third quarter ... this year the payment of Federal ... estate and gift taxes was at a record annual rate of \$18.5 billion, up 20

percent from 1995. Including state

and local levies, which totaled more ..

than \$23 billion, estate and gift tax payments were \$41.8 billion, up 11 percent from the prior year. Wealthy Americans may not be paying as much in estate taxes as some would like, but they are not

rushing away from taxes. You use the opinions of Prof. Edward N. Wolff to boister your case that avoidance of estate taxes has made wealth distribution in the United States less equal.

Professor Wolff says there has been a sharp increase in inequality since the late 1970's. He wants a \$40 billion annual tax on wealth to support programs that he believes

would level the playing field. However, by his own comprehensive measures of wealth, the share of assets owned by the richest Amer cans was about the same in th 1980's as in the 1950's and 1960's an

much lower than in the 1920's. The basic policy question is this Should the United States, with chronic shortfall in net saving an investment, sluggish productivit gains and limited improvement i real wages, tax investment assets t... provide additional subsidies for consumption? Professor Wolff wou presumably answer yes. 1 say n If economic growth is the goal, the: is a better case for eliminatir estate taxes than for increasu

H ERICH HEINEMAN Great Neck, L.I., Dec. 22, 19: The writer is an economist.

New York Football

To the Editor:

Your insights into New Yorl football fiasco fall short in assessi blame (editorial, Dec. 26), In t case of the Jets, the problem is t fault of Leon Hess, the owner. Y say he has an "instinct for picki hapless head coaches" and you nar Bruce Coslet and Pete Carroll.

Coslet has a distinguished care Hess, in his impatience, fired h prematurely and he rejoined Cinc nati, as offensive coordinator. Aft Cincinnati fired Dave Shula for r

Editorial Notebook

the country.

anxiety.

Sam Wanamaker's Great Obsession

at ali.

A curious and stirring sight awaits an American visitor to Southwark Cathedral, a surviving relic of medieval England on the

Who Remade the Globe

south bank of the Thames. Among monuments in the nave to nitled worthles and deceased prelates is a plaque "In Thanksgiving for Sam Wanamaker, Actor, Director, Producer, 1919-1993, whose vision rebuilt Shakespeare's

Globe Theatre on Bankside in this parish." Had Mr. Wanamaker died two decades ago, he would doubtless have been remembered as an eccentric American who upheld a hopeless cause. This year, however, the nearly finished Globe's premiere production, "Two Gentlemen of Verona," has ended a sellout run and will move to New York next month. As important, a grimly derelict neighborhood is recovering some-

thing like its Elizabethan gusto. As a reporter present at the 1970 launch of Mr. Wanamaker's campaign, 1 remember the good-natured ridicule it provoked. Scoffers, myself included, owe his ghost an apology. The Globe is not a toy or theme-park fabrication but is as convincing and evocative as the

The American Exile

joined its Shakespeare troupe. He made his Broadway debut in 1942, fought in the Pacific theater in World War II and seemed destined for a successful career as

director and classical actor, whose roles included a Stratford-on-Avon Iago opposite Paul Robeson's Othello. Bot like Robeson, who was an avowed Communist,

and innumerable other Americans who were former Communists or vaguely leftist, Mr. Wanamaker became unemployable in the blacklist decade. Some sought to salvage acting careers by confessing error and informing on colleagues before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Summoned to Washington for such a rite, Mr. Wanamaker chose exile in Britain. As punishment, his passport was revoked in the 1950's.

The Shakespeare project helped Mr. Wanamaker keep his sanity and dignity intact. On his first visit to London in 1949, he had sought traces of the original theater and was astonished to find only a blackened plaque on an unused brewery. He found this neglect inexplicable, and in 1970 launched the Shakespeare Globe Trust, later obtaining the building site and necesالمالانمالكم

Making Nice Is Not the Same as Doing Good

By Michael J. Sandel

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. eanness is out of season m American life, and calls for civility echo across the land. Fed up with atk ads, negative campaigns and tisan rancor, Americans are also tressed at the coarsening of evday life - rudeness on the highys, violence and vulgarity in Holrood movies and popular music, brazenly confessional fare of rtime television, the baseball star o spits at an umpire.

ensing the backlash against incity, President Clinton and Republileaders promise to rise above tisanship and to seek common und. Members of Congress plan a artisan weekend retreat to get to w one another better and to diss ways of conducting their disreements with greater civility. anwhile, a growing number of nanal commissions ponder ways of newing citizenship and community. Americans are right to worry out the erosion of civility in everyly life. But it is a mistake to think at better manners and decorum an solve the fundamental problems American democracy. In politics, ivility is an overrated virtue.

The problem with civility is the very hing that tempts politicians to extol it is uncontroversial. But demoratic politics, properly conducted, is illed with controversy. We elect polititians to debate hotly contested public

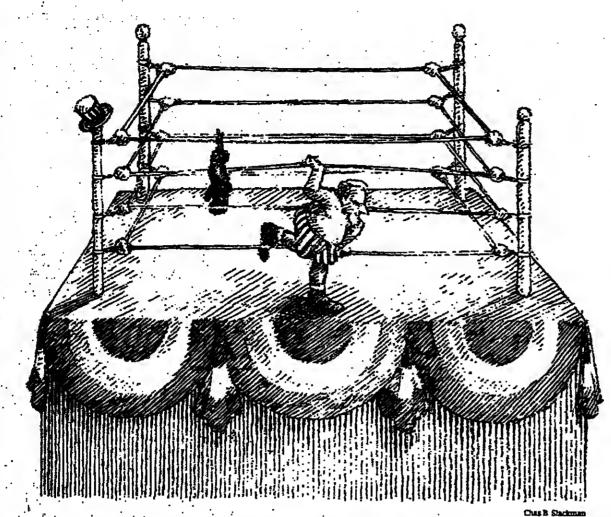


juestions — for example, how much to pend on education and defense and are for the poor, how to punish crime, vhether to permit abortion. We should ot recoil at the clamor and contention hat result; it is the sound and the pectacle of democracy.

It is desirable, of course, that politcal debate be conducted in a spirit of nutual respect rather than enmity. But too ofteo these days, the plea for more civility in politics is a highminded way of pleading for less critical scrutiny of illicit campaign contributions or other misdeeds. Likewise, the call to rise above partisanship can hiur legitimate policy differences or justify a politics that lacks principle or conviction.

From the New Deal to the civil has always been partisan politics, at

Michael J. Sandel, a professor of Government at Harvard, is the author of "Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy.'



least in the sense of requiring the mobilization of like-minded citizens to fight for a cause that others op-

The incivility now rampant in American life will not be cured by exhortation or by a muting of political differences. It is a symptom of a problem with our public life more fundamental than can be solved by a softening of partisan voices. Americans' worries about incivility express a deeper fear that the moral fabric of community is unraveling around us. From families and neighborhoods to cities and towns to schools, congregations and trade unions, the institutions that traditionally provided people with moral anchors and a sense of belonging are under siege.

Takeo together, these forms of community are sometimes described as the Institutions of "civil society." A healthy civil society is important not only because it promotes civility (though this may be a ... Tocqueville praised America's viwelcome byproduct) but because it hrant civil society for prodocing the calls forth the habits, skills and qualities of character that make effective democratic citizens.

Of course, every institution of civil society has its own distinctive purposes. Schools are for educating the young, churches and synagogues for worship, and so on. But when we participate in schools or congregations, we also develop civic virtues, qualities that equip us to be good citizens. We learn, for example, how to think aboot the good of the whole, how to exercise responsibility for others, how to deal with conflicting interests, how to stand up for our

The yearning for 'civility' in politics misses the point.

views while respecting the views of others. Above all, the institutions of civil society draw us out of our private, self-interested concerns and get us in the hablt of attending to the common good.

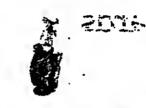
. A century and half ago. Alexis de "habits of the heart" on which democracy depends. If Tocqueville was right, there is reason to worry about the nearth of civil society, even of yond its effect on the manners people display in stores and on the streets.

For if families, oeighborhoods and schools are in ill repair, they may be failing to produce the active, publicspirited citizens a successful democracy requires. (The dismal turnout

in the recent election may be one indication of this effect.)

This at least is the hunch underlying a profusioo of national commissions sprouting up to explore ways to renew citizenship and community. They include the Penn National Commission on Society, Culture and Community, which convened this month in Philadelphia; the National Commission on Civic Renewal, led by William Bennett and retiring Sepator Sam Nunn of Georgia; the National Commission on Philanthropy and Civic Renewal, whose chairman is former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, and the Boston-based Institute for Civil Society, which recently announced a project on civic renewal to be led by retiring Representative Patricia Schroeder of Colo-

Whether these efforts can help rejuvenate American civic life wili de-



pend oo their willingness to grapple with hard, controversial questions about the factors that have undermined virtue-sustaining communities in the first place. They must

resist the temptation, endemic to such commissions, to steer clear of politically charged questions.

On the surface, the project of renewing civil society has the same kind of conpartisan appeal as the call for civility in public life. Who could oppose efforts to strengthen families, neighborhoods and schools? But the attempt to repair civil society will be uncontroversial only as long as it remains hortatory - the stuff of Fourth of July speeches and State of the Unioo addre

Any serious effort to shore op value-laden communities must face up to the forces that have undermined them. Conservatives like Mr. Bennett locate the threat to virtue-sustaining institutions in two sources: popular culture and big government.

Rap music and vulgar movies corrupt the youth, they argue, while big government and the welfare state sap individual initiative, enervate the impulse for local self-help and pre-empt the role of mediating institutions. Prune the shade tree of hig government, they insist, and families, oeighborhoods and church-based charities will flourish in the sun and space now crowded out by the overgrown tree.

The cultural conservatives are right to worry about the coarsening effects of popular entertainment, which, taken together with the advertising that drives it, induces a passion for consumption and a passivity toward politics at odds with civic virtue. But they are wrong to ignore the most potent force of all - the corrosive power of an unfettered market economy

When corporations use their power to extract tax reductions, zoning changes and environmental conces-



sions from cities and states desperate for jobs, they disempower communities more profoundly than any Federal mandate ever did. When the growing gap between rich and poor leads the affluent to flee public schools, public parks and public transportation for privileged enclaves, civic virtue becomes difficult to sustain, and the common good fades from view

Any alternat to revitalize communify must conteod with the economic as well as the cultural forces eating away at the social fabric. We need a political philosophy that asks what hie to self-government and the civic virtues that sustain it. The project of civic renewal is important, not because it offers a way of muting political differences hut because the health of American democracy requires it. So, too, does the prospect of civility.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Office

WASHINGTON Four of my long shots came in last year, including the second mole in the C.I.A. and the upset in the Israeli election. Obdurate contrarianism led me astray on 11 others, however, including the Presidency of the U.S. and the stock market. But a New Year is a

I. When Newt Gingrich steps down, the oew House Speaker will be (a) Henry Hyde; (b) Richard Armey; (c) John Kasich; (d) John Boehner; (e)

Tom DeLay; (f) Susan Molinari.
2. Surprise best seller of the year will be (a) "The Names of Things," etymological wonderment by Susan Brind Morrow; (b) "Crazy Rhythm," a revealing memoir by Len Garment; (c) "The Night in Question," stunning stories by Tohias Wolff.

3. At the secret heart of the Clinton dirty-money scandal is (a) the financial hushing of Webster Hubbell and Craig Livingstone; (b) the Riady conversation in the Presideotial limousine; (c) the dealings in Jackson Stephens's Worthen Bank; (d) Paul Redmond's search for the ghost of Larry Wu-Tai Cbin.

4. Clinton's major domestic success will be (a) restoring food stamps to legal immigrants by being gentle in use of the line-item veto; (b) holding G.O.P. capital-gains reduction to a measly 5 percent, no indexation; (c) unreforming welfare reform by one-third; (d) getting Trent Lott to join him in passing the buck to commissions on Social Security and Medicare.

5. Clinton's Albright foreign policy will be (a) happily bawkish as NATO expands eastward despite Moscow's grumbling; (b) decidedly dovish as commerce with Castro commences: (c) inept as U.S. pressure oo Netan-yahu encourages Arafat to demand a divided Jerusalem; (d) impotent as

Outsmart the pundit, collect nothing.

China lays a heavy band on Hong Kong freedom with no U.S. economic retaliation.

6. The Supreme Court will decide is no "right to die"; (b) that libertarians are right in their objection to drug testing; (c) to reverse the Eighth Circuit and hold 7-to-2 that Paula Corbin Jones's lawsuit will have to wait until her accused harasser leaves office, Scalia and Ginsburg dissenting.

7. First Whitewater witness to crack and implicate the boss in a cover-up will be (a) hushed Webster Hubbell; (b) sick Jim Guy Tucker; (c) unpardonable Susan McDougal; (d) central Bruce Lindsey; (e) broke Maggie Williams; (f) resentful David Watkins; (g) dumped Harold Ickes.

8. President Clinton will (a) pardon co-conspirators and risk impeachment; (b) refuse pardons and risk coconspiracy charge; (c) fire Ken Starr as ultra-partisan and risk firestorm; (d) let justice take its course and win in court; (e) laugh heartily when frustrated Starr files a criminal information in lieu of indictment.

9. Al Gore will (a) clash with Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson in Senate dirty-money hearings; (b) begin subtly to put space between himself and a weakening Clinton; (c) replace command-and-control environmentalism with flexible industry incentives.

10. Winner of the year will be (a) 'The English Patient," sweeping the Oscars; (b) dissident Wei Jingsheng, getting the Nohel Prize he needs to save his life in a Chinese prison; (c) Web-TV and the digital video disk that plays movies, as they zoom past cable TV and dish the satellite Whigs.

11. Power is realigned as (a) Daschle and Gephardt form coalition of united Democrats and rebellious moderate Republicans to back Clinton and overwhelm the G.O.P. "majorlty": (b) contrariwise, united Republicans join with blue-dog Democrats to overcome Presidential vetoes; (c) Aleksandr Lebed makes surprise deal with the Communists, forcing Yeltsin to replace dull Prime Minister Cheroomyrdin with lively Moscow Mayor Luzhkov and hated staff chief Chuhais with reformer Yavlinsky.

12. President's popularity (a) drops under impact of Congressional hearings on Asian connection and revelations of Independent Counsel; (b) rises slightly as oew White House counsel employs balance-of-contrition strategy with ethically wounded Speaker Gingrich; (c) holds steady as people grow bored with scandal and economy stagnates, interest rates drop, stock market marches on up: (d) soars as Madonna's sympathetic portrayal of the First Lady in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Trial of Hillary"

smashes Broadway records. My choices: 1-c, 2-c, 3-d, 4-d, 5-all, 6c, 7-c, 8-d, 9-c, 10-a (to avoid a shutout), II-none, I2-a. Remember: There's no fun in playing only favorites.

Thomas L. Friedman is on vacation.

The Hidden Meanings of 'Black English'

By Patricia J. Williams

ne melting pot is boiling over again, this time with a decision by the school board in Oakland, Calif., to reclassify "ebonics," or black veroacular, as a distinct language. The battle is a familiar one that has raged at least since the 1960's. The issues it raises are too Often polarized in a simplistic debate about whether black American speech is "good" West African traditionalism or just "bad" English.

There are more complex questions to consider. Can the notion of a singular black vernacular (if that is what ebooics purports to be) account for the enormous variations in black American speech, which from true dialects, like Fullah, to a panoply of distinctly egional accents? Is so-called Reeived Standard American English that most Americans speak anyvay? And, as a prickly Oxfordducated acquaintance of mine woners, wheo could any part of the merican vernacular be called Eng-

The consensus in the media seems be that, since hlack veroacular is deed not a language in the strict nguistic sense, the Oakland board just wrong. That leads to more rangling about whether the board full of Afrocentric oeo-nationalists whether it's just another example Teachers Refusing to Teach.

It is true that most black speech is early comprehensible as a variant American English, albeit with rammatical and syntax patterns lat are strongly influenced by West frican language structures. The ontorted battles over rap lyrics as olitical speech — however densely emacular the language is - have tot been about the failure of the arger society to understand the vords as Eoglish.

At the same time, part of the batle over ebonics is premised on the ssertion that hlack vernacular can-

atricia J. Williams is a professor at olumbia Law School.

not be understood: that its continued use accounts for the high numbers of blacks in remedial education, and high black unemployment rates. So maybe the Oakland school board

If it's Greek to nonspeakers, then go ahead and treat it like Greek. And if funds are available for bilingual education to belp recent immigrants assimilate into the mainstream, then maybe this isn't strictly about linguistic history, but more about an investment in the future. So by all means hitch the aspirations of the Middle Passage right onto the forward-lurching wagons of the progressive immigrant myth.

Perhaps the real argument is oot about whether ebonics is a language or not. Rather, the tension is revealed in the contradiction of hlack speech being simultaneously understood yet not understood. Why is it so overwhelmingly, eveo colorfully comprehensible in some contexts, particularly in sports and entertainment, yet deemed so utterly incapable of effective communication when it comes to finding a job as a con-

struction worker? Causing further confusion in this

The ebonics battle is about the abandonment of public schools.

debate is the apparent treatment of illiteracy as if it were black speech. Black children are crowded into remedial education classes and are disadvantaged in finding jobs because too many of them have neverbeen taught any variation of the printed word, whether phonics, ebonics or Esperanto. Some young children learn more of the alphabet on "Sesame Street" than they can in overtaxed and overcrowded inner

city schools. Moreover, the very conflation of

expressive complexity of most forms of black speech is based on a peculiarly freighted symbolism in the American lexicon. While accent prompts many levels of discrimination in the United States, there is no greater talisman of lower or underclass status than the hlack accept (or any, really), no greater license to mock than with some imitation of black speech. Whether in The Dartmouth Review or "The Lion King," hlack English is the perpetual symbolic code for ignorance, evil and jest, the lingo of hep cats and bye-

Even solidly middle-class hlacks with strings of higher degrees and perfect command of standard grammatical structure can face discrimination if their accepts are deemed in

any way identifiably "black." Is it really any wonder that there is such an ambivalent response to mainstream standardized speech patterns among black children when the "standard" is so often imparted with such missiooary conviction about eliminating "had" linguistic acts? It's as if the very spontaneity of their speaking were an extension of the general lawlessness of black

Is there oot a way to teach the rules of what is called Received Standard American English without such geoerous side dishes of homili-

Would the recognition that there really are rules and structures in black English belp us get past those smug assertions of nobler, higher linguistic conventions? Can we resist the evocative echo of Henry James's fear of random, chaotic utterances spewed from the dark recesses of the vulgate (read Irish) mouth? Can we resist the nostalgia for an unalloyed classicism that nev-

I understand the effort of the Oakland school board to legitimize ebonics as one of translation, which is a generally respected enterprise, rather than cultural uplift, which is inherently condescending. That said, one thing that troubles me about the Oakland proposal is the reported plan to teach the city's teachers not

illiteracy and the reasoned, rich and only the structure and history of tion of bilingual students. It's a stratebonics but also how to speak it.

It's hard enough to sort out the values embedded in the aversion to black speech as a "bad" version of what is rather too exclusively called "white" English Imagine having teachers who speak standard class-

Do we really want white teachers learning this vernacular?

room English flailing about in some really bad version of a standardized hlack English. If they end up speaking ebonics as badly as teachers who learn a little "professiooal Spanish," cringe to think of the consequences: pidgin versions of Talking to Tonto. Ugh. And I do mean ugh in the most classical sense.

There are enough standard-Eoglish speakers who just love to "talk black," who at the drop of a bat break out in "basketball" - now there's an official language - and who, encountering any hlack person, start "dude"-ing and "I be"-ing up a storm, high- and low-fiving to beat the band. This phenomenon is part minstrelry, part presumptuousoess and, most complicated of all, part of the mainstream's assimilation of black speech patterns that, once incorporated, are promptly forgotten

as such. I worry a hit that this natural and overlapping fluidity of American vernacular and its regionalisms will be rendered all the more invisible by falsely turning teachers into linguistic anthropologists, adventurers in the "foreign" terrain of alien ver-

Finally, a great concern about the Dakland school board's action has been the rather transparent strategy of categorizing ebonics as a distinct language in order to gain access to extra financing for the educa-

egy lawyers know well: Consider, as law students must, the question of whether a lame horse dipped in tar and beaten with pillows qualifies as a bird - technically defined as a two-legged creature with feathers. Ah, literalism.

So it's predictable that at a time of badly dwindling resources, if there is a pot of money earmarked for teaching in any way that substantively communicates with students - well, call it communication, call it language, call it a rose if need be. Just go for it.

Cynical, some say; to others, it's a creative manifestation of the instinct for survival. I think the whole thing is sad. While the Oakland proposal is quite understandably the practical result of a bureaucracy trying to maneuver the limits and roadblocks of category imperfections in a categorically imperfect world, maybe part of what we are sidestepping in the fight about standardized speech practices is the ongoing abandonment of public schools, a de facto flight hegun with the resistance to the promise of Brown v. Board of Education.

After all, if this controversy boils down to the old familiar ingredients of struggle for respect, resources, opportunity and jobs, then we are really faced with just one more clarioo call for commitment to public education as standard. This in turn, depends on a more generous evaluation of the standards by which we judge each other's humanity.

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks.

Cultural Trend-Spotting Becomes All the Rage

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

HIS WEEK, with the coming of the new Year, there may be a spirit of rebirth at large in the land, a sense of something new about to begin. But if so, the feeling will be all too familiar. The displacement of the old and the celebration of the new has become a year-round habit. In fact, we are always resetting our clocks, recalibrating our sense of newness, ringing out and ringing in at ever faster rates. We have created a culture founded almost entirely on irends.

In newsrooms, board rooms and classrooms, we "Braille the culture," as one professional trend spotier, Faith Popcorn, has famously put it. We run our fingertips along trendbumps as they speed past. Sales of snoring remedies are up. Sales of exotic fruit drinks are down. Current events are news in opera (in recent years, Stewart Wallace's "Harvey Milk," John Adams's "Nixon in China," Anthony Davis's "X; The Life and Times of Malcolm X"). Nineteenth-century novels are big on screen (last year, Jane Austen; this year, Henry James). Television sitcoms celebrate chattering friend-shlps ("Seinfeld," "Friends" and various imitators). Things are moving so fast that some fashion gurus declared the "Evita" look dead even before the Madonna film opened last

We give everything a name decades, styles, movements, generations - in attention-getting capital letters. The Me Decade was named by Tom Wolfe in 1976, after it was more than half over. The 80's were slurred as the Decade of Greed. The Beats begat the Baby Boomers who begat the Punks who begat Gen X who now await newly named succes-

In advanced intellectual life, trend-spotting is becoming just as frenetic, with ideas and arguments taking on many of the characteristics of fashion. Structuralism was superseded by Semiology, which joined forces with Lacanianism, which was displaced by Deconstruction, which was superseded by Culgulfed by Po-Mo - post-modernism which sometimes seems to be declaring that all trends are created equal.

Nowhere is the swirl more frenzied than in pop culture, which hasn'leven gor nme for names or seasons. A generation in pop-culture terms seems to measure about two years, and a trend can come and go seemingly in a matter of weeks. Funk, hiphop, house music and gangsta rap jostle for attention, with their variations competing for new, revised monikers. In television, the 50's and 60's are joined by the 70's and 80's as Nick at Nite and the cable industry create trends out of recycled nostalgia. It seems as if we are always racing to catch up with these changes in taste and style, learning the new names and constantly seeking to find newer ones. We want to ride the crest of these waves; we bope we never float helplessly while the action is elsewhere. We are trend addicts, seeking to be on top, ahead, beyond or on the brink. In fact, the trendiest trend in culture right now is trend-spotting.

Culture is almost haphazardly strewn about us, on screens, billboards, in concern halls and art galleries, filtered through millioos of minds, executed with thousands of techniques. It's there in advertising and in serious music, in the latest Hollywood blockbuster and in the dumbest television silcom, in university classrooms and in political ral-

But culture is increasingly difficult to decipher, so we seek the supposed essences in the midst of chaos, trends that give a semblance of order and connection to a world we are partly constructing, partly being swept away in. There is an element of anxiety in this quest, but somewhere in this mess - and much of it is a mess - there seems to be a message, or at least a mirror, offering some explanation of ourselves we cannot find elsewhere.

And if we, the consumers, seek trends, how much keener are the producers of our entertainment, the marketers who bet millions of dollars on whether a particular star is "hot" or a particular book will "take off." There is money to be made out

of our obsessions. Faith Popcorn, for example, whose invented name promises the snap and crackle of instant satisfaction along with the reliability and confidence of homespun religion, is a professional trend reader. Among her credentials, she notes that she correctly predicted the demise of wine coolers and the rise of gourmet coffees and that major corporations like American Exoress and Pensico









The German philosopher George William Hegel, far left, whose use of the term Zeitgeist may have given rise to the notion of trend, probably didn't have in mind Madonna's latest movie look in "Evita," Andy Warhol's Pop Art "Marilyn" or even styles in music, represented in "First Orchestra in America," by Theresa Bernstein.

find. If we say buddy movies are "in" one season, or action thrillers the next, this is not a matter of progress, bringing us greater understanding; It is just a change in preferences. Every trend is just additional evidence of change rather than another step toward stability.

This was not always the case. Such extreme quests for trends were once unnecessary partly because of something now quaintly known as tradim was once an imposing, if porous and amorphous, presence, a sense of past achievement that provided the context within which new artworks were created. The tradition - or traditions - invoked in an artwork partly provided its premises, partly its style, partly even its subject matter.

Listeners could comprehend Beethoven because they had come to know the music of Haydn, Mozari and lesser talents who had similar ideas about musical structure and drama. French Impressionism achieved its impact partly by rejecting a tradition of academic painting. There was a time when tradition forcibly affected how paint was applied to canvas, which images would be used in a novel, whether one musical line could be combined with an-

There was plenty of movement within a tradition - which is why there are so many distinctive works - though the tradition still provided a frame of reference. Each work was not only addressing an audience of viewers, listeners or readers but was also conversing with the many other works that preceded it.

The early development of opera, for example, was related to Renaissance conceptions of Greek drama and to the notion that a link existed between the meanings of words and their sounds. Stravinsky, the critic Richard Taruskin has shown us, worked within multiple folk traditions of his native Russia, which the composer wed to the manners of Parisian modernism. The development of Pop Art is inconceivable without reference to Dadaism and the rejection of the tradition of esthetic meaning.

It is impossible to consider any significant achievement in the arts during the last five centuries without invoking the word "tradition." A rebellious act is as beholden to the tradition it rejects as a conservative one is to the tradition it upholds.: that is what the avant-garde has been about and why it can now seem so formulaic.

Tradition implies expanse and history; trend implies brevity and sensation. Tradition invokes age; trend speaks of youth. Tradition demands reference to the past; trend demands iconoclasm and newness. Tradition is based on resemblance how this artwork or that aspect of culture invokes or relies on what has come before; trend is based on difference - how this artwork is distinct from what has come before.

Tradition also provides a context for culture, a home. Artists work

requiring no proof; it attracts followers rather than leaders, crowds rather than individuals. (Trends can grow into traditions, but this is a long process requiring commitment, interest and labor.)

For a large part of cultural history, there was a balance between these two attitudes to the past and present - a balance guided by what T. S. Eliot called the presence of the past. But now that balance has shifted and the past has become a burden. The very word "tradition" has taken on the suggestion of something rigid, stultlfying, restrictive, mindless. During the last hundred years, many artists have even cultivated this attitude; now it has become willely accepted. The prophecy that tradition will kill art has become self-fulfilling.

Consider the situation in the world of classical music. Despite new interpreters of the mainstream repertory and new compositions appearing on the margins of music culture, there is a sense of finality in the concert world. Within the last 30 years, changes to the Western music tradition have been truly marginal. Failure to pass on the tradition to new audiences may mean that both composers and listeners will cease to treat it as a living organism; that is one reason conversations with many composers, performers and managers tend to become morbid.

There is such a sense of finality, that many composers have deliberately sought other traditions in which to ground themselves. Minimalism was influenced by African and Asian music. Eastern European mysticism tried to discard three centuries of narrative drama and leap back into the Renaissance. Avant-garde groups have tried to adapt pop instrumentation and man-

These are all evidence that the music of the concert hall from about 1780 to 1950 — the core of the Western tradition - has ceased to have a compelling hold on creators, and that there is no secure tradition within which classical music can develop, only a series of nascent alternatives. Something has come to an

This situation leaves the way wide open for the most fashionable trends to make their way into the concert scene - ideas about programming (much crossover) or orchestras (more pops). The high arts are not completely vulnerable because the aura of tradition still bovers, slowing the pressure of trends, moderating them. In most of the high arts, the traditions are so weighty with achievement that they provide frames of reference, even when

trends loom large. In mass entertainments like film and television, however, tradition has much less depth or weight. It once seemed to have a chance: silent film began invoking the operatic tradition - in the design of movie houses, the musical accompaniments and the heightened use of gesture to suggest meaning. Film began to develop a tradition of its

84 First name in Port to the extent that a movie's

sense of a tradition in a form that has almost entirely lost what it once

Popular music, some of which has long tradition connecting It with black American musical styles, also makes little obeisance to the richoess of that tradition. The emphasis, even when drawing on contemporary forms of black music, is primarily on the new, and the different. While there are undoubtedly influences and traditions in popular music. innovation, peal and iconoclasm tend to be the defining forces. Television is no different. There are exceptions, but for the most part, the medium oeeds to respond energetically to the de-

ACROSS

Attack severely

7 Sweet, dark wine

14 Saw-billed duck

18 Dutch city on the

19 Bacchanalian

21 Venomous snake

23 Girl, informally

25 Noted Riverdale

High student

Spessivtseva

Three Lives"

32 Silver coins of

---- were

35 Bossy remark?

37 Rat Pack member

45 Captain of the Half

46 Quarterback's cry

47 Sugar source

49 Victim in a 1932

SI It comes from a

55 Division of a long

63 Writers Meyer and

64 One who wails

66 The Dark at the Top of the Stairs'

68 Comic punctuation

70 Prepares, in a way

73 Help the cause

75 "Arabian Nights"

56 List shortener

54 Perfect

57 Swamp

60 Separates

65 Other: Fr.

writer

72 Chivvy

74 Pitch

67 Planetarium

mystery, with "the"

44 Make, as bread

36 Spanish arm

ancient Greece

33 Pot-au—— (meat and vegetable dish)

29 Philbrick's "-

30 Some wts.

24 "M*A*S*H" regular

26 Insanity and others

activity

28 Ballerina

20 Silly

tellectual life. The controversy over the canon in the universities - questioning whether the great books of the West should still be required reading - is a controversy over whether this tradition (which is actually a multiplicity of traditions) will be a presence in the future. But critics of the canon tend to treat this body of knowledge as if it were similar to everything else in our trend-

As in entertainment, so too, in lo-

deas - in this case, negative and narrow ones like racism or Imperial-In fact, a developing academic discipline known as "cultural studies"

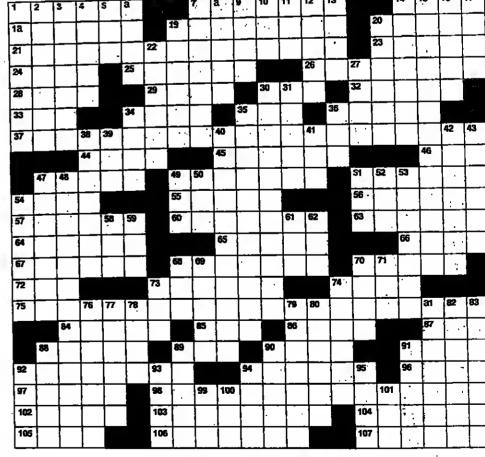
ridden era, the reflection of simple

made between a Braille-like bump in popular culture or an imposing achievement in a highly developed tradition; for some scholars, both contain equally important information. The appeal of shopping centers is as crucial as the image of the body in Western art, the nature of the sports fao as central as the education of a scientist.

There is something amiss in these efforts to treat a tradition with no more seriousness than the latest passing fashion. When the early-19th-century German philosopher Hegel used the word "Zeitgeist," he was trying to outline the course of world history as a series of systemis partly a study of trends and frieir aut transformations in human con-meanings. Few distinctions are sciousness.

A HOST OF SINS

BY BRYANT WHITE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



- 98 Popular cocktail
- 104 Rouge roulette bet 105 Some beans 106 Solvent compounds 107 Like most gates

102 Hold off

103 Blows to

- DOWN 1 Shortens 2 Worm for bait
- 4 Head of Thermopylae?
- 5 One of LBJ.'s beagles
- 6 Mystery author Lathen 7 Chopper
- 8 "This is ----!" (police cry) A 1040 TT:L-L

- 19 Year St. Augustine was born 20 They undergo
- 22 Prayer 27 Ones voting yes 30 Vociferous

31 --- nova

43 "Relax!"

47 Feldspar, e.g.

48 Uniqueness

- 34 Plot to plant 35 "The Ten Commandments" location 3 One of the Leeward . 36 Michael Jackson's
 - first#1 hit 38 Where Triton is 39 ——El (Superman's
 - real name)
 - 40 Doodad
 - 41 United Nations vote
 - 42 Opinions
- 69 Chief Vedic god 70 Wine shipment
- 71 Biographer Winslow 89 Al ---73 Kind of fingerprint 90 Just touch
- 74 Branch railroad, e.g. 91 Pioneer in medicine 76 Intelligently planned 92 Macarena and progresses 77 Flipper 93 Jacob's first wife
- 78 Suitable for service 79 Blast furnace apparatuses
- 80 Chariot-driving 99 — angelica (organ Greek god
- g1 Ready to ambush 100 Singer Sumac 82 The East, en España 101 Overseas title

1

83 Broke a rule of play

88 Migratory songbird

others

94 Opposed, in

95 Clockmaker

Thomas

Dogoatch.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE PRADO BRAVAOO 6 RAMAM TREMORERECITED LATINO SOFARLHAVENT MADE 1 TF 1 T

Dropping the habit

Rehabilitating women drug offenders have a much tougher time getting the support they need than do their male counterparts. Judith Sudilovsky reports

VERY morning Isabelle Sabah wakes up at 6 and gets ready for her job as head chef at an El Gaucho restaurant in Tel Aviv. While many people bate getting up that early, the struggle is twice as difficult for Sabah.

"Drug users love to get high and stay in bed all day," said Sabah, 44, who has been in and nut of jail for the past 10 years on drug charges, and was most recently released from jail nine months agn. "At first it was hard having to get up early and wait for buses. Befine I had never used buses. I would always take taxis or get rides from the gang. When I started to work, I had to wait for the bus and I would pray that God would give me the strength just to wait for the bus."

She started her rehabilitation process while still at Neveh Tirtza Women's Prison. By the end of the year, she was the only woman in the program who had succeeded in steering clear of drugs, and when she got out of jail she decided she wanted to continue putting her life back together. Through a special employment project established hy the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority in 1994 for women offenders, Sabah found her joh at the El Gaucho restaurant.

Establishing rebabilitation programs for female prisoners is more difficult than for male prisoners since women are often giveo shorter sentences so there is not coough time to work with them in prison, said Avraham Hoffman, director of the Prisoner

Rehabilitation Aothority. In addition, many of the existing rebabilitatioo programs don't take into consideration the women's special needs, said social worker Michal Latte, who coordinates the PRA employment program for women. At first, the PRA worked with the women in rehabilitation

were falling through the cracks. Since up to 90 percent of the women have been sexually abused and victimized for most of their lives, they have hit rock bottom in

terms of self-esteem and self-confidence when they are released from prison. They need a more intensive treatment program which includes more direction and supervision than male offenders, said Latte, who at 28 is the driving force behind the employment project and acts as social worker, mother, and cheerleader to the released prisoners. In addition to Latte, each woman is matched with a volunteer who acts as a role model and provides friendly sup-

Recently, the PRA held an awards ceremooy for some 25 former women prisoners and their employers who have taken part in the employment project to mark the women's first full year of work. The program is concentrated mostly in the central region, where most of the women offend-

Finding work for female former prisoners is also harder than for men, said Latte. While most men have some sort of experience in construction work or other physical labor, most of the women have never worked in their lives and have only minimal education. They are usually qualified only for low-paying menial jobs, and for someone who is used to living the high life with profits from drug sales and prostitution, managing on NIS 3,000 a month from waiting on tables can be quite a shock,

The PRA provides special courses for the women to improve their marketable work skills and also holds seminars and weekly therapy sessions to help them cope with the new demands and responsibilities in their lives, such as paying rent and utility bills, and dealing programs together with men, but with their free time. Women have they discovered that the women found jobs working in restaurants, stores, factories, and offices, and

Latte must also keep her eyes open for any hints of sexual harassment on the part of the employer. She removed one woman from her job because she suspected the boss was making inappropriate advances towards her, said Latte. There is always the danger of an employer taking advantage of the woman's weakened position, said Hoffman, and someone who would normally not behave that way may think that the woman won't mind his sexual advances since she had once been a prostitute.

IN ALL of Israel, there are about 180 women prisoners compared to some 6,000 male prisoners, said Hoffman. The stigma against women nffenders is greater than against men because society seems to be better able to cope with a man who has strayed from the accepted path than a with a woman who has used drugs or worked as a prostitute, he said.

Usually the families of female prisoners cut off relations with their jailed danghters mainly because of the issue of sex involved in prostitution, he said, so the women lose the basic support network which men prisoners receive from their mothers, wives and girlfriends. The reason for this is very simple, he said: Since most women prisoners were sexually abused by family members as girls, parents don't want to be reminded of their own past sexual transgressions when their daughters are jailed for prostitution.

While wives of prisoners keep the family and home together and make sure the children visit their jailed father, men are usually quick to divorce their wives once they go to jail, he said. So while men have a home waiting for them, most women are very alone in the world once they are released from prison. And since most of the the way I should have done it. I. of lateness, acknowledged Nati



In the kitchen at El Gaucho. At first Isabelle Sabah (left) had problems with lateness, but thanks to the patience of her employer Nati Hadad (right), she overcame them. Now 'Isabelle is a part of us,' says Hadad.

women have children, they also should have given her two weeks' have the added responsibility of child care.

"I'm not in touch with my family," said Meirav, 31, the mother of a 12-year-old, who just got out of prison three months ago and asked that her real name not be used. She, like Sabah, is living at the PRA women's hostel. "A man won't go visit his wife in jail, he won't wait for her to get out. He'll go find himself another woman. My brother is an addict too and my mother and father have staved in touch with him, but they have oo contact with me.

Meirav also joined the PRA employment program but she is still at the beginning of the long and difficult path of reintegrating into society. She had been working at a dry-cleaning store but when she didn't get the promotion she had been promised and the store manager yelled at her, she

quit on the spot. "Of course now I know that isn't

Hadad, manager of the restaurant, hut with patience they worked the ontice, hut when she started yelling at me I lost my perspective and couldn't think," Meirav said. problems nut. Now, if Sabah is late they don't worry because they "It is hard but I learn from my know she will get the work done. mistakes. In jail they talk to us They will be sending her to an about all this in theory hut in realadvanced conking course soon, he ity it is very hard."

The law does not require an exconvict to tell his employer of his prison history, noted Hoffman, but the PRA realized that if a "friendly employer" was aware of the woman's background, they would be more willing to put up with some initial difficulties until the woman adjusted to the requirements of the work world.

Meirav's employer said he is still interested in employing former women prisoners, although this is the third worker from the PRA who has left. It is not easy, he admitted, but by working with these women he feels like he is contributing something to society.

When Sabah first came to work at El Gaucho there were problems

more challenges so she woo't get bored here." Two other women offenders had worked at the restaurant before Sabah, said Hadad, but each only stayed for a short period of time. Most of the women do not stay at the first job where they are placed,

"Today Isabelle is a part of us," said Hadad, "We don't feel we are

working with a former convict.

We have never had such an orga-

nized kitchen. We want to find her

Despite the praise and advance-ment, it is still a daily battle, said Sabah, whose two grown children live with their father in Umm el-Fahm. She pats Nati's shoulder and plays with his ponytail affec-

much responsibility; she fears being alone and not being able to cope with the daily pressures, she said. She has cut off all ties with her old buddies who live only a few minutes' drive away in Jaffa, she said, hut it takes all her strength not to gn and my to help ber drug-addict hrother there. Another brother is in jail nn drug charges, and a third brother, also a drug addict, was killed during a

I know I have an illness and I can fall back down again," she said. "I want to belp my brother and show him what I have done, but I am afraid to get too close. I am afraid if I go see him I will feel sorry for him and I will fall back down with him. I don't want to be with anyone who will remind me of my past, although I need to remember so I won't fall again. Here at this job I have strength. I don't have any family left, but here I have found myself a new family. I thank God that he put me tionately. She fears taking on too, " into Michal's hands."

The making of a pig

UST how far we are entitled to go in pushing back the limit-iog edges of scientific discovery, and just what frontiers are to be explored, becomes more and more a subject for debate. There is oo area where these questions are

more rigorously debated than in the entire field of genetic engineering. British scientists and animal rights activists are constantly at sword's point in the long-standing war between those who see some types of animal exploitation as a solution for pressing human problems and those who say that the utilization of animals for human needs is immoral.

Now, some environmental

groups are also backing the animal rights groups. One of the most pressing controversies centers around Astrid, the first transgenic pig. When Astrid was no more than a fertilized ovum, the cells were injected with human DNA in the hope that Astrid's genetic make-up would be close enough to the human to create immunological compatibility so as to allow organ transplants into humans that would be less likely to be rejected hy the human body. Astrid, a "test-

tube baby" piglet, was born on four years ago this month. Now, she is a healthy mature sow, and tests conducted so far show that the "pig with the human heart," as she has been duhbed by the British press, may well be liv-ing up to the expectations of the scientists who produced her. She is fertile and her offspring are also carrying the human DNA. "There EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

is no doubt" say scientists at a secret location in Cambridgeshire, England, "that transgenic pigs are far more compatible with humans than are ordinary pigs. The factor nf hyperacute rejection seems to be absent, and that is a serious fac-

However, the value of perfusion tests - the only tests done so far wherein human blood is perfused through the heart of the donor animal, are limited in their scope and oo one will really know until the time comes when they can actually attempt a transplant. So far, the scientists have failed to get permission for an experiment with a human recipient.

Many scientists are extremely perturbed hy this and mention that it's easier to get permission to transplant a haboon heart into a human - despite the fact that in every case so far the animal heart has been rejected - than to get permission to try a heart that has a much higher possibility of saving the patient's life.

They feel that the granting health agencies are simply cowed by the pressure from the animal rights groups and that their decisions are not based on scientific considerations.

Because of the acute shortage of donor organs throughout the world, surgeons dream of xenoplantation producing a range of transgenic animals for transplants and for treatment, particularly since the use of embryonic human tissue is so controversial, although extremely promising in the treatment. Also, because it may even cure several diseases including Parkinson's disease and juvenile

But the use of transgenic ani-mals is only marginally less controversial. So vociferously have animal rights activists opposed this new step, that Astrid's location is kept secret and those who created her maintain unlisted telephone oumbers and have adopted precautions for the protection of themselves and their families. The environmentalists, while less outspoken on the issue, feel that transgenic animals might somehow enter into the hiotope occupied by other animals and pollute

the native gene banks.

Their objection is not to Astrid, per se, but to hio-engineered species in general - an objection voiced by some, but by no means all, of the environmental protec-

One thing of interest here is that no one has yet reported the reaction of the Rabbinate or the Islamic authorities to the idea of such transplants, but it can be safely predicted that they will soon have something to say about

As has happened in so many ses, such as artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and sur-rogate motherhood, they will simply have no choice.

ETTING a staggering new standard for generosity to

employees, the co-founders of an Orange County technology company unveiled a \$100 million bonus package at the company's seasonal holiday party, and will soon hegin giving workers checks for up to three times their annual salaries.

With payments averaging \$75,000, the largesse represents employees' share of the \$1.5 hillion windfall received hy David Sun and John Tu when they sold 80 percent of the Kingston Technology Corp. - the world's largest maker of computer memory products - to Snftbank Corp. nf Japan earlier this year.

Tu and Sun were by no means ohligated to share the wealth. But in an age when employees are commonly treated as costs and Wall Street cheers executives nicknamed "Chainsaw Al." the gesture is merely the most extreme example in a long tradition of generosity at Kingston.

"To share our snccess with everybody is the most joy we can have," Sun said to hundreds of cheering employees and their families.

Snme fought back tears and others talked of buying houses, helping their parents, or simply saving their bonuses.

book

Company offers whopping Christmas bonus to employees

"This is beyond my wildest dreams. But everything they do blows me away," said sales representative Brandi LaPlante. "I'm gning to get a higger car to hold my three kids." Tu and Sun said that about \$60 millinn will be set aside for

> the rest will be doled nut imme-Depending oo seniority and performance, most of the 550 employees will get honuses ranging from one to three times their amnal salaries, meaning some will get \$300,000 or more.

future bonuses to workers, but

They say their employees are the reason their company sits atop the fiercely competitive computer memory industry.

"They are the ones working hard day in, day out," Tu said.

"Our attitude toward our employees is, 'You deserve this. You deserve more than this."" Other US companies bave cer-

tainly helped their employees become wealthy. Microsoft Cnrp. has spawned thousands of millionaires in its employee ranks, and Levi Stranss & Co. earlier this year offered its 37,000 workers an incentive program that could be worth \$750 million if certain goals are met over the next five years.

But those eases, and many others, involve stock option programs that allow employees to buy their company's stock at a discounted price and sell it later

for a profit. employees are being given cash Tu and Sun could easily keep for

Kingston is unique because

"I've never heard of anything like this," said Jeffrey Pfeffer, a professor at Stanford University's husiness school.

"It is momentous, particularly because it is being dnne voluntar-

Kingston is not the first company to discover that a family-values approach can be a formula for success. In their own ways, Southwest Airlines. Hewlett-Packard, and others have also prospered by taking good care of employees.

"It's how you lonk at your work force," Pfeffer said. "When I look at you dn I see a cnst, nr dn see you as the nnly thing that separates me from my competi-

(Los Angeles Times)

book

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Tuesday, December 31

for stock taking.

With by Alex Berlyne Prejudice

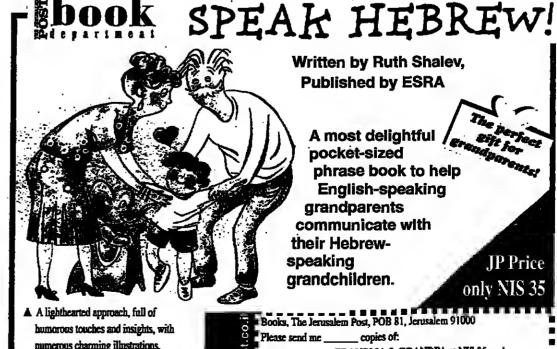


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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 30, 1996

Finance Committee: Deficit must drop to 1.5% of GDP by 2001

Avner's 9-month deficit

totals NIS 501 million

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A bill which would set definite limits for the deficit in each of the next five years moved another step forward yesterday when it was approved by the Knesset Finance

The bill, which is meant to send investors the message that the government is serious about deficit reduction, now will be sent back to the plenum for its second and third readings.

However, it will have oo real binding force eveo if passed, since it always can be amended. This is what the Labor government did in 1994, when it saw it would not be able to meet the targets specified in an earlier law.

According to the bill, the 1997

AVNER Insurance completed the

third quarter of 1996 with an accu-

mulated deficit of NIS 501.12 million, compared with a net loss of

NIS \$11.14m. at the end of 1995.

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domestic product. The limit would then decrease to 2.4% of GDP in 1998, 2% in 1999, 1.75% in 2000 and 1.5% in 2001.

These targets are considerably less ambitious than those included in the original Deficit Reduction Law, passed by the previous Likud government in 1992. This law stipulated a deficit of 6.2% in 1992, 3.2% in 1993, 2.2% in 1994 and zero in 1995. However, it is more stringent than the amended version passed by Labor in 1994, since it

sets specific targets for the deficit.
The Labor bill stated that the deficit would be 3.0% in 1994 and would decrease by unspecified amounts in each of the three following years. However, the deficit hit 3.2% in 1995 and is expected deficit would have to be no greater than 2.8 percent of the gross to be some 3.8% this year.

The consortium insurance com-

pany, which compensates automo-bile accident victims, had an accu-mulated deficit of NIS 1 billion at

Speaking at a press conference

yesterday, Avner Chairman Haim

Stoessel said the cootinued

improvement in the company's

financial situation is mainly due to

a 22 percent rise in tariffs as well

as the company's implementation

of efficiency measures and cuts in

expenses. The improvement is also

due to the increased attempts to

"It is my personal forecast that Avner will get rid of its deficit in two year's time, assuming the mar-

ket situation does not change,"

While Avner has become a more

efficient company, Stoessel urged

the government to complete Amendment 12 of the automobile

accident victim compensation law,

which is intended to increase effi-

ciency and reduce the cost of

claims. The insurance supervisor is

currently examining the amend-

Investments grew NIS 770m. in the nine-month period to NIS 4.88b.

Avner's investment portfolio

increased to NIS 91m. compared with

In the reported period revenues

grew to NIS 2.24b. compared with

1.92b. Expenses increased to NIS

49.4b. compared with NIS 45.15b.

in the same period in 1995.

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88m. in the same period last year.

prevent fraud.

Stoessel said.

the start of January 1995.

association, said at a press conference yesterday. Amos Bar-Am, director-general

Shlomo Heit, vice president of the

SOME 120,000 foreign workers'

work permits are due to expire

tomorrow, because the Ministry of

Labor and Social Affairs won't

agree to their renewal, the

Association of Cootractors and

The licenses were last extended

in June, for six mooths, one month

before the licenses' original expi-

The Interior Ministry has not

renewed foreign workers' permits since November at the instruction of Labor and Social Affairs

Minister Eli Yishai. As a result,

almost all workers in the construction and agriculture sectors will be declared illegal.

"Within one night all of the for-eign workers will become illegal

workers. They will not be able to withdraw their wages from the banks and may even decide to move to new fields of activity,"

Builders said yesterday.

ration date.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

foreign workers' visas

Yishai won't renew

of the association, said thousands of workers who left the country to spend Christmas with their families will not be allowed back into the country. A shortage of workers, he said, will make it very difficult for contractors to continue to work and meet building timetables. This will most likely cause a reduction in the number of building startups and a shortage in bousing, he said.

Labor and Social Affairs Ministry spokesman Zvi Rosen confirmed that Yishai instructed the Interior Ministry not to grant any new visas to foreign workers or to extend existing visas until the ministry examines the relationships between employers and foreign workers. Rosen said the ministry has not completed its examination, but heads of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, Interior Ministry and the Employment Office are scheduled to meet this morning to try to resolve the per-

At the press conference, the contractors criticized Tzipi Galyam's proposal to impose an annual tax of NIS 3,300 on each foreign worker and to increase the guarantee employers pay on workers to NIS 8,000 from the existing NIS 2,500. Galyam, the Treasury's head of Economic Research and State Revenue Administration, also supports doubling the income tax imposed on foreign workers from 15 percent on half their annual income to 15% on their total income and subjecting employers to higher medical insurance coverage and pension payments.

This would cost the construction sector NIS 300m. which will be passed on to apartment buyers in the form of higher prices," said

The contractors forecast the proposals will lead to a 0.8% increase the building input index, a 0.25% rise in cost of housing index and 0.1% in the Consumer Price

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Former BCCI affiliate gives first result in years: A former affiliate in the United Arab Emirates of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has reported its first results since

BCCI collapsed amid allegations of massive fraud in 1991. The financial statements of Union National Bank (UNB) - called Bank of Credit and Commerce (Emirates) until August 1991- show that the bank made a 74.72 million dirham (NIS 80 million) profit in

the five years and six months to June 30.

This compares to the 52.98 million dirham profit in the year to December 1990.

Romania doubles fuel prices ahead of visit by IMF:Romania's government said yesterday it would double fuel prices in the New Year to belp cover losses caused by the depreciating leu currency and to meet International Monetary Fund recommendations for the

An official statement said that from Wednesday petrol would rise to 1,900 lei (NIS 1,60) per litre of premium, up from 990, and 1,300 lei

per litre of cliesel, up from 680. The increases were in line with suggestions made by the IMF, which suspended a \$460 million accord on the grounds that Romania's former leftist government, had failed to meet targets agreed with the Fund. The leftists lost power in a general election last month.

Bringing fuel prices gradually up to world levels was part of the package agreed with the IMF for this year. Romania annually produces around 6.7 million tons of crude oil, but needs to import about double that amount - a huge financial burden for the cashstrapped ex-communist country - to meet demand and keep its big refining sector running.

Egypt gives new privatization target: The minister in charge of Egypt's privatization program has said the state will sell shares in 51 public-sector companies during 1997 - a lower target than the

minister has given in previous statements.

Public Enterprise Minister Atef Obeid, quoted in the government newspaper al-Ahram on Saturday, said 40 of the 51 companies would be sold in full to large investors.

The state will sell shares in the other 11 companies by public subscription through the stock exchange, he added.

Obeid said in November that the state planned to sell some or most of the shares in 91 state companies by June 1998. Earlier in the year he said the target for 1997 was three companies a

fortnight throughout the year, making a total of 78. Obeid has repeatedly announced ambitious privatization targets which the government later failed to meet.

Swedish opposition to EMU grows: Swedish opposition to Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is growing with more than four out of 10 Swedes against the idea, a survey by pollster Temo showed on Saturday.

Less than a third of Swedes are positive about the possibility of joining a single European currency and the rest are undecided. The survey was conducted during November and December and showed opposition towards EMU is increasing.

In October 38 percent of the 1,000 people questioned for a similar survey were opposed to EMU but this increased to 44% by the end of the year.

Jordanian ministers visit Iraq on oil mission: Energy Minister.

Hashem Dabbas and Finance Minister Marwan Awad left for Iraq
yesterday to discuss Iraqi oil supplies to the kingdom for 1997. The ministers will meet senior leadi officials to discuss renewing an

annual agreement under which the kingdom receives its daily requirement of 75,000 barrels of crude and fuel oil from Iraq. according to an official speaking on condition of anonymity. The supplies are exempt from United Nations sanctions imposed on

Baghdad following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Amman considers the oil as settlement of Baghdad's \$1.2 billion debt, incurred during its 1980-88 war with Iran. Jordan pays a discounted price for part of the supply. Trade Minister Ali Abu-Ragheb will visit Iraq Jan. 6 to renew a

\$220 million annual trade protocol.

Iraq is Jordan's largest trade partner and one-time ally. But Jordan fell out with Baghdad last year, when King Hussein bitterly attacked the policies of Saddam Hussein, called for political change in Iraq and granted asylum to defectors, including members of Saddam's inner

Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan sign natural gas deal: Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan have formally signed an agreement to pipe natural gas from Turkmenistan via Iran to Turkey and Europe, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

The agreement was signed by ministers from the three countries late Sannday in Tehran.

Iran's gas pipeline will be officially linked to that of Turkey at the Iran-Turkey border sometime between March 21 and April 20, IRNA

The pipeline will tap Turkmenistan's estimated 25 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves.

British Labor Party rejects pact with unions: Britain's opposition Labor Party yesterday rejected a formal partnership with the trade unions if the party wins the next general election. Labor's employment spokesman Stephen Byers said the party

wanted consensus in the workplace but had no proposals to establish a formal means of consulting with the unions, as called for by one

Union leader John Edmondsearlier called for a partnership between unions and a Labor government with the setting up of a national forum to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Byers was speaking after the head of the Trades Union Congress, the unions' umbrella body, said they must develop a more constructive outlook if they want to influence the new-look Labor Party in government.



Bank of Israel warns against rising tax burden

THE sharp rise in the budget deficit and borrowing over the last two years would force the government to increase taxes in coming years, a report issued yesterday by

Operating profits before taxes increased to NIS 15.69m. compared with losses of NIS 14.89m. the Bank of Israel said. This deficit ... was financed from public borrowing, both at home and overseas, against the background of insignificant privatization revenues," the statement issued by the central bank's monetary division said. "These loans have increased the overall government debt and in its wake the future tax burden that awaits the

A spokesperson from the Bank of Israel said that while an

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and news agencies

is too high," the spokesperson said. "What we are saying is that we need to lower the deficit."

The report said the government's combined domestic and foreign deficit had nearly doubled from the years 1993-94 to 1995-96. The deficit grew to approximately NIS 11 billion a year on average in 1995-96, compared with about NIS 6b. amusily in 1993-94. The foreign deficit includes budget items denominat-

ed in foreign currency.

The wider deficit was financed by a one-third increase in domestic and overseas borrowing during the period. As a result, government borrowing for new and recycled debt grew to about NIS 36b. annually in 1995 and 1996, up

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

annually in 1993 and 1994.

The Bank of Israel noted that the

proportion of overall debt not

linked to inflatioo had grown

sharply. Unlinked borrowing

accounted for 28% of total bor-

rowing in 1996, up from just 6%

in 1993. Meanwhile, unlinked

debt made up 7% of total debt, up

The transition to unlinked bor-

rowing has caused a reduction in

the terms of government bonds, the bank said. Unlinked bonds this

year were offered for terms of one

to five years. "a term shorter than all other domestic fundraising

instruments," it said.

Overall, the average term for

domestic bonds fell to five years

in 1996 from 7.3 years in 1993...

from 1% in 1993.

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OBJECT? POLICE IMMEDIATELY!

increased deficit and increased borrowing necessitate increased taxes, the bank continues to maintain its stand against imposing a greater burden on the public. "Our position has always been and remains that the level of taxes from approximately NIS 27b. DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) Currency (deposit for:)
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Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.12.96)

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SOURCE: BANK LEUM!

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Key Representative Rates US Dollar NIS 3.2610 +---% Sterling NIS 5.4824 +---%

Silver falls on profit-taking COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

PRECIOUS metals futures closed mixed Friday, with March silver falling to slight losses on profittaking, sources said.

March silver and February gold were supported by options expirations in London. End-of-the-year book-squaring was mostly seen in precious metals as funds began easing out of their positions, while banks and dealers have been relatively quiet over the past week.

February gold closed steady at \$371.10; March silver was 1.5 cents lower at \$4.9113; April platinum was unchanged at \$375.10 and March palladium ended 65 cents lower at \$118.75.

After spending most of Friday morning trading in a narrow range, the March high grade copper futures contract closed 110 basis points lower at \$0.9860. The Japanese weak economy and stock market as well as its poor industrial production has dampened the demand for copper. Nervousness over the tomorrow's London Metal Exchange warehouse stock figures have also resulted in a lower demand for this metal.

February crude oil settled 30 cents higher at \$25.22; January heating oil closed up 49 points at 70.55 cents; January unleaded gasoline settled 28 points higher at 69.36 cents and February natural gas closed 40.4 cents lower at \$2.980.

New York cotton futures settled lower on mostly local and some commercial trade selling. Wet weather conditions in northern Argentina and Paraguay has slowed planting and favorable weather conditions in Texas is enabling harvesting. There have been no significant delays in Australia's planting or India's harvesting and analysts are predicting that India's bumper crop could lead to heavy exports in the 1996-

1997 season. Orange juice futures settled sharply lower on speculator selling and commercial trade hedging. Generally favorable weather conditions exist for Florida's trees and fruit as harvesting continues and no damaging cold weather is expected this coming week.

Markets will close early tomorrow and will remain closed Wednesday for New Year's Day.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

China to favor US, Europe in retail sector

BELIING (Reuter) - China said on Saturday it would expand cooperatioo with foreigners in the nation's retail sector and that big companies from the US and Europe would be given priority.

But the official China Daily newspaper said Beijing wanted to ensure that Chinese firms retained majority control in retail joint venture projects.

The newspaper quoted Huang Hai, director-geoeral of the Ministry of Internal Trade's policy and regulation department, as saying that China would ease restrictions on the number and location of foreign-invested stores.

ROSS

(Continued from Page 1) readiness of the two sides to continue the process will be attached to the agreement. It is said to be 10 pages long. Meanwhile, officials in the

Prime Minister's Office say Netanyahu does oot want a big peace ceremony as part of the signing of the Hebron accord.
As one US official put it last night, "The image this govern-

ment wants to create is one of auguish and not celebration" so as to persuade right-wing coostituents that the decision was taken with a heavy heart. An aide to Netanyahu said, "We want something low-key. This prime minister doesn't want balloons. The last government believed ceremonies had a favorable psychological impact on the population. We don't subscribe to this point of

Meanwhile, Shai Bazak, the Prime minister's spokesman, denied a report in The Jerusalem Post that in a memo written over the last two months, General Security Service officials recommended Netanyahu consider removing the Hebron settlers after a Hebron deal, fearing that settler Provocations could lead to bloodshed. Nonetheless, informed sources stand by the story.

S. Korean strikes will cost Seoul \$1b. by year-end

SEOUL - Strikes that have crippled much of South Korean industry will cost the country more than \$1 billion in lost production by the end of the year, the trade ministry said at the weekend.

Strikes, which have enguised South Korea since Thursday, turned violent for the first time over the weekend as rock-throwing workers backed by students fought pitched battles with riot police in Seoul. The 20,000 striking laborers were calling on parliament to abolish a new law that makes it easier for companies to

On Saturday, police unleashed barrages of tear gas canisters at about 6,000 workers to stop them marching down a busy thoroughfare to Myondong Cathedral in the city center in protest at the tough

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new labor law, witnesses said. Police vehicles spraying tear gas saturated marchers, who responded by ripping up paving stones and hurling them at squads of officers. At least six protesters were hauled

away, witnesses said. We will respond to force with force," said Kim Young-dae, vice-president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, the sponsor of the rally. "We will carry out strikes as planned and no rallies will be cancelled."

The government has condemned the stoppages as illegal and threatened unspecified "pun-ishment" but has so far shown restraint in handling some of the worst industrial strife since the

Multi-sided trading

Meanwhile, snowballing strikes that have devastated industry now

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threaten the financial sector. Banking unions announced a oneday stoppage next Saturday and said a decision would be taken later on whether to extend the action.

Tellers and clerks at commercial banks and mumal savings firms feel vulnerable because financial market opening is expected to spark a wave of mergers in the heavily-protected industry, resulting in job cuts.

Next Saturday's strikes will also affect the central Bank of Korea. But transport chaos was largely averted when non-union drivers kept trains running on the Seoul subway. Nurses and orderlies at three more hospitals walked out, bringing to 17 the oumber of medical centers forced to close all but emergency care.

The government said stoppages that have almost completely idled

car and ship production will cost the country more than \$1 billion in lost production by the year's end. This was on top of \$3.2b. already

lost through strikes. Unions claimed 375,000 workers at around 700 work sites had joined the walkout by Saturday. Two union umbrella bodies have called out their combined membership of 1.7 million, Workers fear the law means that decades of job security are coming to an end, while the government argues that more flexible labor practices will

secure jobs in the long run.
Clashes broke out after workers broke away from a three-hour rally in a park to denounce the government of President Kim Young-sam for passing the labor law in a clandestine session of parliament

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Two-sided trading

Shares end lower as strike thins trading

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Two-Sided index

SHARES closed lower yesterday as volume fell in response to an outhreak of strikes around the country, traders said.

The trading session ended 15 mioutes early when the strike finally spread to the Tel Aviv

The benchmark Two-sided index of the top 100 shares fell 0.30 percent, or 0.63 points, to 208.39 on a low all-share numover of NIS 57 million against NIS 79m. Thursday.

The Maof 25 blue chip index lost 0.21% to 216.55.

The market is dead. The trading day ended earlier today because of the strike and activity was low. A few of the banks weot on reduced schedules, which had a strong impact on trading," said a trader at Bank Leumi.

The Histadrut called the nationwide strike yesterday morning following the arrest of a trade union official for not appearing in court in connection with strikes last

"We saw also some profit-taking and investors are taking a wait- 2.5m.

Maof index

and-see position. It's difficult to

say what the market will do in the near future," the trader added.
"The market made a very nice

move over the last two months and investors are a little jittery," said Danni Scharia at Capital Securities.

"Investors are waiting for fresh news. They want to see approval of the budget and an agreement on Hebron," Scharia added. "We are getting closer to the end of the year and nobody knows how the new year will open."

The Knesset is expected to vote oo the 1997 hudget tomorrow or shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were due to meet late yesterday in another round of talks to complete an accord on redeployment from Hebron.

The most active shares were Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. which gained 1.5% on volume of NIS 4.2m.; Bank Leumi, which gained 1.75% on turnover of NIS 3m.; and Koor Industries, which fell 0.75% on volume of NIS

Jordan parliament endorses 1997 budget

AMMAN (Reuter) - The Jordanian government Saturday won approval for its 1997 budget, amid criticism of IMF-directed economic reforms that have been blamed for faelling poverty and unemployment.

The vote after four heated sessions of debate this week in the 80-seat lower house was 53-15 in favour of the 1.92 billion dinar (NIS 9 billion) budget that reflects the last two years of an accelerated IMF-structural reform program ending late 1998.

The Islamist dominated opposi-

tion along with centrist deputies from across the political spectrum criticized government policies that they said exacerbated growing social inequalities and led to an erosion in real wages, fueiling poverty among Jordan's 4.2 million population.

"People have become accustomed to hear figures in the budget that talk about growth but feel none of it... only more price hikes, memployment and poverty."
Islamist deputy Mohammed Oweidah told the chamber,

Prime Minister Abdul Karim al-Kabariti, defending the govern-ment against critics, said state spending will bolster aid to the poor as Jordan steps up IMFdirected market reforms. Kabariti, saying an economic liberalization drive will help attain a growth target of 6.50 percent in 1997, also inveiled a \$400 million fourprooged social package spread over six years to help ease the country's poverty levels.

The plan entailed extra capital investment to boost infrastructure in poorer areas, setting up funds to finance small scale projects and large scale training projects to rehabilitate the poor and unemployed, Kabariti said.

Officials say the package, pre-pared along with the World Bank and to which international donors will cooribute, should help the country go through a transitional period of painful economic

World Bank estimates put poverty in Jordan at around 20% with a 15% unemployment rate.

Officials say expanding projects to help Jordan's poor has topped Jordan's economic agenda after riots broke out last August in the underdeveloped south of the country when the government hiked the price of bread.

Economists and officials alike express growing fears at the poteotial for social unrest with a widening gap between poor and rich that could derail expanded IMF reforms begun in 1996. Finance Minister Marwan Awad assured deputies that helping alleviate the social impact on the poor of IMF-directed economic reforms was a top priority.

But in an admission of the impact of bread price-hikes on living standards for ordinary Jordanians, for whom bread is the main staple diet. Awad said inflanon rose in the 10 months of 1996 to 7%. The government has previously said the inflation rate has been constant at around 3%.

The government also warded off demands to hike salaries of the more than 450,000 civil servants a major portion of overall state expenditure and a hurden on the budget deficit.

The 1997 budget deficit is esti-mated at 225 million dinars, without factoring in foreign aid, or 3.9% of GDP against a readjusted 237 million dinars, or 4.6% of

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(Continued from Page 1) organizations from all sectors of the economy converged on Netanyahu's office yesterday and urged him to take firm action against the Histadrut, so that foreign investors are not deterred from dealing with Israel. Many of the participants in the meeting stressed they were not of Netanyahn's political persuasion but that on this issue they are sid-

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ing with him. The employers wanted the governmeot to seek back-to-work orders from the courts and to enforce them. They said the deductions from employees' pay, which will not be turned over to the Histadrut, will be used as compensation for some of the losses caused by the strike. They also will initiate legal action to win further compensation, they

Chamber of Commerce head Danny Gillerman spoke for the other employers and users of services provided by the ports, utilities and facilities shut down, when he called the strikes "a Bolshevik move of a burnt-out trade federation."

Meridor warned the Histadrut to step back from the brink, hinting at dire repercussions if it did not. He accused the Histadrut of "having gone way too far this time. It has violated every rule possible. There isn't anyone who can understand what this strike is all about. Even protest must have a

reason and some rules or we will

all sink into unredeemable anar-

Meridor said, "This is an

attempt to terrorize the labor courts." Peretz complained about the general public's "annoyance and impatience with the hardships caused by the strikes. I understand that people are suffering, but they must realize that we are doing this for them. It's for their own good.

"I wonder about people in this country," he added. Judy Siegel adds: Kupat Holim Clalit community

clinics, including the emergency medicine centers, will be open today, despite sanctions by nurses, pharmacists and administrative workers. All doctors will be on the job and work normally. management said yesterday. Members who require medications can go to the private pharmacies with which the health fund has supply arrangements. Clalit's hospitals, however, will function according to a reduced Shabbat schedule.

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Pittsburgh, Dallas persevere

Cowboys rout Vikings, 40-15 Steelers smash Colts, 42-14

the Pittsburgh Steelers took the ball out of Mike Tomczak's hands and gave it to Jerome Bettis and Kordell Stewart, the Indianapolis Colts ran out of miracles.

Bettis saved a Steelers offense that was threatening yet another big-game meltdown, running for two second-half touchdowns and 102 yards as Pittsburgh survived another erratic day by Tomczak to beat the Colts 42-14 yesterday in the AFC playoffs.

Bettis, who guesses his sore ankle is only 80 percent healed, scored on the Steelers' first two drives of a 29-poiot second half. Stewart later replaced Tomczak to lead two more scoring drives. Jon Witman scored his first NFL touchdown on a 31-yard run, and Stewart - starting another Steelers quarterback controversy - added another on a 3-yard bootleg.

The Steelers, who had lost three of their previous four as Tomczak labored through a horrendous second-half slump, play Sunday at New England, where they haven't played since the 1979 season. The Patriots had a first-round bye.

Maybe, just like the Dallas Cowboys did in beating up on the Minnesota Vikings on Saturday, it took the playoffs to get the

Still, the Colts seemingly had some magic left in them from last season's dramatic drive to the AFC championship game they lost in Pittsburgh 20-16. Indianapolis scored twice in four minutes late in the second quarter to turn what was looking like a blowout into a 14-13 halftime lead.

Both of the scores came off Tomczak-thrown interceptions. including Eugene Daniel's 59yard touchdown return that made it 13-7 and came just as the Colts appeared ready to go down easy. Their offense had yet to cross the 50-yard line when Daniel stepped in front of Tomczak's pass intended for Ernie Mills.

But the Colts couldn't take it to the final play this time like they

PTTTSBURGH (AP) - As soon as did in January, when Aaron Bailey almost made an extraordinary catch of Jim Harbaugh's desperation. Not when the Steelers controlled the ball for all but 1:59 of the third quarter.

Bettis, who has rushed for 100 yards in all but one Steelers victory this season, carried eight times for 42 yards on a 91-yard drive that lasted 91/2 minutes and was finished by his 1-yard dive.

That drive, and an ensuing Steelers possession completed by Bettis' 1-yard run that made it 28-14 with 14:21 remaining, visibly took the heart out of the Colts.

The Colts, whose defense manufactured all of their points, had only 22 second-half yards, and Harbaugh finished the game on the bench with a stitched-up jaw he injured on Indianapolis' first possession.

The Coits offense - the worst of the 12 playoff teams - was outrushed 231-41 and outgained 407-146 as Harbaugh was only 12-for-32 for 134 yards and an interception. He threw for only 39 yards in the second half as Chad Brown, who became an All-Pro after moving to outside linebacker to replace the injured Greg Lloyd, sacked him three times.

Bettis briefly left the Steelers bench after his first touchdown to be checked for a groin injury, then sat out the rest of the game after scoring his second touchdown.

The Steelers kept the ball on the ground almost exclusively in the final quarter, with Witman adding 48 yards and Stewart carrying six times for 51 yards. Stewart earlier scored Pittsburgh's first touchdown on a 1-yard quarterback sneak that made it 10-0 with 4:55 left in the first quarter.

Norm Johnson added a 50-yard field goal, his longest of the sea-son, to make it 13-0, and the Colts seemed ready to lose big as usual in Pittsburgh, where they are 0-10 since Three Rivers Stadium opened in 1970. The Colts' last win in Pittsburgh came in 1968. when the Steelers played at Pitt

IRVING, Texas (AP) – The Dallas Cowboys finally played like defending Super Bowl champions.

Dallas discovered its missing offense, George Teague was a oneman gang on defense, and the Cowboys knocked the Minnesota Vikings out of the playoffs 40-15 in an NFC wild-card game Saturday.

The Cowboys, who struggled to a 10-6 regular-season record before winning the NFC East for the fifth consecutive time, will play the Carolina Panthers at Charlotte next Sunday in the NFC divisional round.

This team is still what it is and hasn't fallen out of sight," said coach Barry Switzer. "We made a statement today. We're still the team to beat for the Super Bowl."

The Cowboys took out all their frustrations on the Vikings after a chaotic regular season of suspensions, injuries and underachieving performances.

"We turned it up a level," Switzer said. "We played a total offensive game, and the defense was just great. George Teague had an amazing game."
The Vikings self-destructed in

the biggest scoring half in Dallas playoff history as the Cowboys rolled to a 30-0 lead at intermission. The Cowboys forced five numovers and cashed them into 23

On offense, Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith executed like they did in winning three Super Bowls in the last four years. Teague made three big defensive plays to stun the Vikings, who qualified for the playoffs with a 9-7 regular season and were seeded sixth.

This is a message for whoever has been talking trash about the Cowboys," said Smith.

Smith, dogged by injuries and even benched at one time during' the season, scored twice and set or tied five NFL playoff records for rushing and scoring. He rushed for 116 yards on 17 carries. Aikman ran for a touchdown,

passed for one and completed 19-

of-29 passes for 178 yards. He is 11-1 in playoff starts and is second only to Green Bay's Bart Start in playoff ratings.

Irvin, who missed five games under NFL suspension, had his best game of the year by catching eight passes for 103 yards.
"The defense has been winning

games and it's time the offense got started and we did today," Irvin

Aikman, Smith and Irvin sat out most of the fourth quarter resting for next week's game.

Dallas, ranked 24th offensively in the NFL, struck on its first possession as Aikman completed four passes for 65 yards to hvin in an 88-yard touchdown drive. The payoff came when Aikman rolled right and scored from 2 yards out.

Then came a bizarre play that took the heart out of the Vikings. Amp Lee took a short pass over the middle and appeared on the way for a 43-yard touchdown. However, Teague caught Lee at the Dallas I and poked the ball out of his hands and out of the end zone for a touchback.

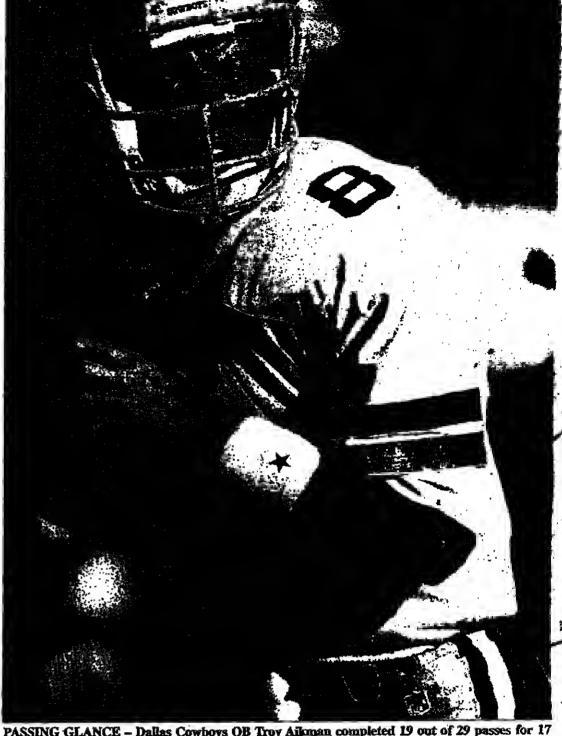
"I don't think Lee knew I was there," Teague said. "I just punched the ball out of his arms." Lee knew Teague was there and tried to tuck the ball away. "I take full responsibility," Lee

said. "That early in the game if we get seven points we make a statement. If we score there it's 7-7. they came out with a lot of emotion but we could take it

"From that play everything snowballed against us." Chris Boniol then kicked the first of his four field goals, a 28-

Minnesota coach Dennis Green said "whatever they needed to get done offensively or defensively they got done."

Green said the game turned on Lec's mistake. "Amp made one of the best plays of the day but got careless,"



PASSING GLANCE - Dallas Cowboys QB Troy Aikman completed 19 out of 29 passes for 17 yards against the Minnesota Vikings on Saturday.

Beasant blunder puts Liverpool five points clear

SOUTHAMPTON (AP) - An to beat the despairing dive of the dropped low to his right to make a spectacular one-handed stop from embarrassing blunder by goalkeeper Dave Beasant handed and Laverpool at five-point slead atopthe English Premier League standings yesterday in a 1-0 victory over Southampton.

Trying to avoid conceding a corner, the goalkeeper ran out of his area wide to the right of his goal and aimed a clearance upfield. The ball went straight to Liverpool's John Barnes who celebrated his 300th league appearance for Liverpool by scoring with a perfectly-measured, first-time 35yard shot into an empty net.

The ball seemed to take an eternity to reach the back of the net but the shot just had enough speed goalkeeper.

points from 21-games although all them of the state of the its rivals have at least one game inhand. Manchester United and Arsenal have 37 points from 20 and Wimbledon 37 from 19. Newcastle and Aston Villa have 34 and Chelsea 32.

Southampton remains last after its seventh loss in eight league games and has 16 points. Nottingham Forest is last with 14. Before Beasant's blunder, Saints had several chances to go ahead but were defied by Liverpool goalkeeper David James.

He twice kept out shots from substitute Matthew Le Tissier and

The result gave Liverpool 42. Egil Ostenstad...

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HARARE (Reuter) - A moonmental 101 not out from Alec Stewart led England's fightback against Zimbabwe on the fourth day of the second Test at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Stewart, on 10 overnight, batted through the day's play and reached his ninth Test century just before the close when England were 195 for three in their second innings, a lead of 136.

It was the gritty, adhesive kind of innings which had been so lacking from England's first effort when they were dismissed for just 156. Impatience was replaced by caution as Stewart simply bided his time and waited for the runs to come.

In the course of his knock, he passed Pakistan's Saced Anwar as the highest Test run scorer in this calendar vear

He had been at the crease for

Stewart century steers England to safety eight minutes over six hours and Nick Knight caught by Alistan faced 259 balls when he brought

up his hundred by dispatching fast bowler Henry Olonga through the covers for his eighth boundary. . The Surrey captain received

good support from his county colleavue Gaham Thorpe Coming together at 89 for three, with England leading by the slender margin of just 30 runs, the pair. responded with an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 106.

Thorpe, dropped by Paul Strang off a difficult chance at point when he was on 37, has been in dismal form on this tour, but showed his fighting spirit in making an unbeaten 50 from 169 balls with six fours.

Leg-spinner Strang picked up the only two wickets to fall during the day.

In the morning session he had

Campbell at slip for 30 and then, shortly after lunch, Nasser Hussain was well caught by Dave Houghton at short extra-cover for six.

But that was Zimbabwe's last success as Stewart and Thorpe, Test at Kingsmead on Samuday. First batted England bask into the South Africa won by 328 tu game and then doggedly built a after Donald, who took five for platform from which, given good in India's first innings, rocked to weather on the final day today. they might yet win.

England first innings 168 (G.Whittell 4-18; H.Streek 4-45) Zimbebwe first innings 215 (G.Flower 73; D.Gough 4-40) England second limings (overnight 17-1) N.Vright c Campbell b Streek ______30 M.Atherton c Campbell b Streek ______31 wart not out

South Africa stops India

DURBAN (Reuter) - Superb fz bowling from Allan Donald pave the way for a South African vict ry over India, who made just 66 their second innings in the fir South Africa won by 328 tu in India's first innings, rocked t Indian top order on the third d_____ with a hostile opening spell three for 10 in six overs.

Generating extreme pace on pitch still offering plenty bounce, the 30-year-old finish with second innings figures four for 14 as India were bowl out for a meagre 66 in 34.1 over their joint fourth-lowest test total Donald was supported by Sha

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VEHICLES General VICELR PRINCES STATION MUSCON

Pollock, who took three for a and Lance Klusener, who return figures of two for 16.

Jordan scores 45 points as

Bulls overpower Cavaliers CHICAGO (AP) - Michael Jordan scored 45 points and the Chicago Bulls used an up-tempo attack to burn the Cleveland Cavaliers' usually stingy defense in a 102-97 victory on Saturday.

The Cavaliers came in as the NBA's top defensive team, allowing only 83 points a game. But the Bulls had that after three quarters and went on become just the third team to score 100 against Cleveland this season. Scottie Pippen added 18 points

for the Bulls, who rebounded from Thursday's loss at Atlanta and improved to a league-best 26-4. Bobby Phills scored 17 points for Cleveland, which lost for only the second time in its last eight

Knicks 96, Magic 85
Host New York blew an 18-point third-quarter lead, but held off an Orlando Magic rally for the second

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division Pct .759 .714 .536 GB Mtami New York Washington Ortando 11/2 .400 .296 .280 .192 Chicago Detroit Cleveland 81/2 10 10 11 .643 .593 .536 .536 .500 .345 15 13 10 13 13 19

Patrick Ewing scored 17 of his points in the first half as the Knie won their eighth straight ho

Ewing made 9-of-16 field-g-attempts to lead the Knicks and Al Houston added 17 points for N York Earlier this season, New York nearly blew a 25-point lead befbeating the Magic.
Gerald Wilkins scored 21 poir including 15 during a 29-12 tun rally the Magic in the second half.

Jazz 110, 76ers 84 Karl Malone scored 17 points in t third quarter before being ejected host Utah routed Philadelphia.

SATURDAY'S NBA RESULTS: New York 96, Orlando 85 Utah 110, Philadelphia 84 Washington 97, Atlanta 86 Detroit 97, Charlotte 75 Minnesota 103, Denver 96, OT Minneson (U., Denver 70, U.)
Houston 104, Golden State 95
Chicago 102, Cleveland 97
Dallas 95, Seattle 90
Phoenix 103, Vancouver 98 Sacramento 126, Boston 96

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pct .793 .786 .414 .370 .276 .240 .200 L6 6 17 17 21 19 24 Minnesota Dallas Denver Sen Antonio 9 10 15 17 18 19 Seattle Portland Sacramento Golden Statis LA Clippers .500 .433 .379 .345

NHL SCOREBOARD

SATURDAY'S NHL RESULTS: Hartford 3, Ottawa 2; Detroit 7, N.Y. Isla 1; Pittsburgh 2, Buffalo 0; New Jersey 5, Anahelm 3; Florida 1, Washing 1 tie; Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 4, tie; Toronto 5, Chicago 4; Edmontos 5, Sari 3. Colorado 5 I os Anahelm ?

WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Liturgica festival of sacred music continues this week in Jerusalem with a variety of concerts focusing, first and foremost, on Jewish liturgy. Tonight (8:30) at the Rebecca Crown Auditorium you can savor the special aroma of Yemenite music in a program devoted to the songs Yemenite men and women smg, separately, in synagogue and at home.

Tomorrow (8) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall and the adjoining foyer, there is an evening of Liturgo Jazz presented by some of Israel's leading jazz musicians playing works inspired by the various traditions of the Jewish people. And, on

Wednesday (8) at the Rebecca Crown Auditorium. there is a program of the prayer songs of Moroccan

Soprano Larisa Tatuev and tenor Evgeny Shapovalov help the Ra'anana Symphonette orchestra celebrate the conclusion of 1996 with a festive New Year's Eve Gala focusing on classical, light classics, and popular selections of Russian music. Itai Talgam is on the podium tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday in Ra'anana (9).

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

BUILT around the poems of the Cracow carpenter Mordechai Gebirtig, who perished in the ghetto in 1942, Farewell Cracow brings to life e gallery of characters from that vanished Jewish world. Actress Bente Kahan presents her one-woman show in Yiddish and English today at 4:30 p.m., and at 8:30 she'll perform her Voices of Theresienstadi created around the memories of survivors and songs that were performed at the camp cabaret. (German). Both at the Haifa Theater Club.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

PHILIPPE Trehet, the French choreographer whose company danced at the recent International Dance Competition, has created Song of Songs for the Bat Dor Dance Company. It is one of three company premieres. The others are Sync by Nils Christie and Anya Brud's Ring. Tonight at the Noga Theater in Jaffa at 8:30 p.m.

1

'The Truth About Cats & Dogs' is a female reworking of 'Cyrano de Bergerac.'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS -Michael Lehmann directed this fresh, female reworking of Cyrano de Bergerac, which stars Janeane Garofalo as a dry wit of e vet with her own radio call-in show, Uma Thurman as her sweet, empty-headed fashion-model neighbor, and Ben Chaplin as the man who gets confused and falls for both of them (he thinks the doctor's voice belongs

to the model's body).

While the suspension of disbelief required to buy
the outlandish storyline often feels more willed than willing, the film maintains most of its feathery charm throughout – in large part because the direction. tor understands the extremely slight, basically improbable nature of the talc he's telling, and never pushes it. Andrey Welles wrote the clever script. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

BREAST cancer is the No. 1 killer of women in the West. Despite the fact that the number of cases keeps growing, the accepted treatment remains drastic and traumatic - mastectomy. The film Agatha's Curse follows several women, among them Australian singer Olivia Newton John, who are active both in increasing awareness among women and in changing traditional treatments. Not for children, Discovery Channel, tonight at 10, and again on Tuesday at 1 and 5 p.m.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

D

7 & 8 A great commotion at four o'clock perheps (5.2.1.6)

10 Hurried to inform one, after word of thanks, of the dance (10)

11 One who comes from the end of the earth? (4) 12 Part of the comedian's material might be given a

roasting (8) 14 Reach maturity during first week in the set (4.2) 15 Broken piece Ray removed

(11)19 A second English degree on elementary life form (6)

20 Another three held by Edward at the end of the line (8)

22 Florence's banker (4) 23 Thin people (10) 25 Rex has container for the

flower (7) 26 Ian must avoid tidal wave

(7)

DOWN 1 Connected all but the last

piece of the case (7) 2 Sailing-boat for one (4) 3 Stop in repairing valve mechanism (6)

4 Without a bend, a narrow passage, it is said (8)

5 Moist path used to prevent water rising (4-6)

6 & 9 Act with great energy

as an organist might? (4,3,3,3,5) 13 Certain to have plenty as

expected (4,6,) 16 Splendour of magnificent

· Parisian etreet going uphill (8) 17 Involve in hostilities yours

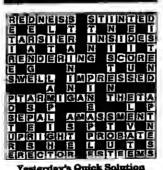
truly coming up with cook

18 It's the hour when most people retire (7)

21 Key member of staff (6) 24 Lengthy name in ship's

record (4)

SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Align, 4 Meant, 10 Matedor, 11 Tense, 12 Torte, 13 Seaside, 16 Nest, 17 Gouda, 19 Norse, 22 Stap, 25 Oversee, 27 Eagle, 29 Alike, 30 Elastic, 31 Skins, 32 Dense.

DOWN: 2 Later, 3 Godsend, 5 Extra, 6 Nannies, 7 Smith, 8 Brass, 9 Level, 14 Etna, 16 Ease, 18 Obelisk, 20 Operate, 21 Moral, 23 Lévee, 24 Peach, 26 Sheen, 28 Gates.

QUICK CROSSWORD 1 Indian city (5) 4 Confining to college (6) 21 Portal (4) 24 Bridge term (5) 25 Greeted (7)

ACROSS

9 Considerable amount (4.8) 10 Bike (5) 11 Walking-stick (4) 12 Bounty (7) 13 Wage (3)

14 Cain'e brother (4) 16 Piece of soap (4) 18 24 hours (3) 20 Fan (7)

26 Alcove (6)

27 Essential (5)

15 Temporary encampment (7) 17 Reviser (6) 18 Belief in God (5) 19 Of weddings (6) 23 E European (4)

DOWN

1 Find out (6) 2 Loaded (5) 3 Current month (4) 5 Precision (8)

6 Under restraint 7 Oily (6)

8 Suggest (5) 13 Egg-laying mammal (8)

22 Group of eight (5)

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning, Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Revolutions in the Modern Era 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Without Secrets 9:20 Nature 9:45 Programs for the very young 10:15 Science 10:40 English 11:10 Social Sciences 11:40 Tolerance 12:10 Science 12:30 History 13:00 in the Heat of the Night 14:00 Surprise Train 14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy 14:35 Babar the Elephant 15:00 Ayelet's Kitchen 15:10 Without Secrets

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Booly 16:00 The Mysterious Island 16:25 Dubieh – live Interactive TV gamo 16:45 Super Ben 18:55 Zap to Basel 19:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zappy Books – children's literature 18:15 News In English ARABIC PROGRAMS 16:30 Sport 19:00 News HEBREW PROGRAMS 19:30 News 18:51 The Simpsons

19:30 News flash 19:31 The Simpsono 20:00 News 20:45 Popolitica 22:10 Backrack with Elud Manor 22:45 The Lazarus Man 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

E CHANNEL'2

13:00 Make A Wish 13:30 Basic Arabic 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Tic Tac – quiz show 15:00 Sharkey and George 15:30 Trick or Treat 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News Magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 Zehu Zeh 18:00 Santa Barbera 19:00 The Mossad 20:00 News 20:30 If Shorting – entertainment with Avri Gilad 21:45 Dan Shilon Live 23:20 Yes Minister 00:00 News 00:05 Night Owls Talk 2:00 They Want to See Blood 2:30 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV

14:05 The Muppet Show 14:30 Dad's Army 15:00 French programs 16:00 Nature's Inventions 16:30 Hey Dad 17:00 News flash 17:15 Dalton – new drama 19:00 French programs 19:30 News heedlines 19:35 Roseanne 20:00 Disaster Chronicles 20:30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema 21:10 The Lazarus Man 22:00 News in English 22:25 Devices and Desires 23:15 The Nobel Prize Concert – with Jose Ramos Horta and Carlos Belo

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:30 The 700 Club 15:00 Larry King 19:00 The A-Team 16:55 Family

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT, insertion every day of the month costs NISS20.66 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM Conducted Tours

REBRIEW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bidg. Buses 4a, 8, 23, 26, 28. For info, call

HADASSAH: Visit the Hadassah instaliations, Chagail Windows, Tel. 02-415333, 02-TEL AVIV

Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Following the Shock
Graffit in Yitzhak Rabin Square; Ten years to
6:30 Cartoons 9:1 Ministry of education Prize in Plastic Arts Portraits: By a oroug of Israeli artists: Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in con-temporary Israeli art. Face to Face: Didactic Stained Glass Windows, HELENA RURIN STEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Amon Ben-David, New works. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerholf Art Education Center, Tel 6919155-8.

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, del 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

PHARMACIES
Jerusalems: Arrona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 6731901; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315;
Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 561-0108; Dar
Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 bn
Gvirol, 548-2040; Briut, 28 King George,
528-3731. Till 3 a.m. Tuesday; Pharma
Daf Jabotinsky, 125 ibn Gvirol, 546-2040.
Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40
Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore
Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 6980115.

0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Ra'anana,
120 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 903798.
Netanya: Magen, 13 Weizmann, 822985.
Hatfa: Hanita, 22 Hanita, 823-1905.
Krayot area: Nitzan, Mordechal Namir,
Nitzan Sq., Kryat Yam, 875-1680.
Herzifiya: Cfai Pharm, Beit Markazim, 8
Meskit (onr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzilya
Pitsah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m.
to midnight. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mali, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedica, ENT); Misgav Ladach (obstatrics); Bikur Hokim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Lanlado. Neterma: Laniado.

POLICE 100 102 FIRE FIRST AID 101 FIRST AID

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911
(English) in most parts of the country. In addition.
Ashdod' 8551332
Ashkelon 6551332
Reersheba' 6274767
Belt Shemesh 6523133
Dan Region' 5793333
Blair 6532444
Helfa' 8512233
Jenusalem' 6523133
Karmier' 9865444

Mobile Internaive Care Unit (MCU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110 The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours e day, for information in case of poisoning. Eran - Emotional First Aid. 1201, also: Jenusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2222/3, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya

862-5110, Karmlel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789. Wizo hotilnes for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 97-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-

Challenge 17:45 Family Matters 18:10 Saved by the Self 18:35 Day and Date 18:30 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 Cosby 20:25 Minor Adjustments 20:50 Major Dad 21:15 Diagnosis Murder 22:05 Metlock 23:00 CNN 23:30 The 700 Club 00:00 TV Shop 2:00 Quantum Shopping 3:00 TV

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:15 Panorama 18:00 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Doctore Talk 20:00 News 20:45 International Art Magazine 21:15 Popcom (1991) – A psychopath haunts a '50s horror filmfest presented by students 23:00 Adventures – Man and Nature

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Wonder Years 16:00 Animals of the Mediterranean 18:30 Scientific Eye 17:00 Fruits of the Earth 17:35 Phenomenal World 16:00 Basic Arabic 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Revolutions in the Modern Era 19:30 Vis à Vis 20:00 A New Evening – with Russian subtitlee 20:30 Cybernews 21:00 Star Treic The Next Generation 21:45 Video Clips 22:00 Female Perspective 22:30 Situation – documentary series 23:30 Jewieh Mysticism

II FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

9:00 Sisters (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live (rpt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:20 Porie Negra (rpt) 12:10 Neighbors (rpl) 12:35 Dallas (rpt) 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:10 Rosie O'Neill 15:00 Sisters 15:50 Days of Our Lives 19:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 16:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Perla Negra 20:50 The Naked Truth 21:15 Ned and 20:50 The Naked Truth 21:15 Ned and Stacey 21:40 Frasier 22:05 Hope and Gloria 22:30 The Drew Carey Show 22:55 New York Daze 23:20 Night Stand With Dick Dietrick 23:45 Law and Order 00:30 Silk Stalkings 1:20 North of 60

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Step Kids (1991) - coming-of-age drame (rpt)* 13:15 Broadway Bill (1934) - romantic drama by Frank Capra (rpt) 15:00 Ad Madness 15:30 Tender Mercies (1983) - award-winning movie about e coun-try singer traing to make a complete. — award-winning movie about a country singer trying to make a comeback. With Robert Duvall and Elen Barkin (pt) 17:05 Marcellino Pane E Vino (italian, 1991) — a baby is found by monks in a cabbage patch. When he grows up he finds an icon of Jesus that speaks to him (rpt) 19:35 Mr. Wonderful (1993) — romantic comedy with Matt Dillon (rpt) 20:25 Without Warning: James Brady (1991) — drame based on the story of Ronald Reagan's media adviser who was shot in the head during the assassination attempt on the president (84 mins.) 21:50 New in the Cinema 22:00 Sweet Temptation (1999) — the attraction between a young man and his fiancee's adolescent daughter is realized one night. The girl is left confused and in love. When she is unable to keep the secret The girl is left confused and in love. When she is unable to keep the secret to herself she turns to her father for help. With Beverly D'Angelo (89 mins.) 23:35 No Exit (1995) – martial arts (rpt) 1:10 Revenge of Jessie Lee (1993) – politically correct Westerm (rpt) 3:00 Exterminator 2 (1984) – 11 Robert Ginty returns as the ruthless detective, complete with flamethrower, out to get a gang of rapists (85 mins.)

The Center of Things 9:45 Pink
Panther Show 10:20 My Brother and
Me 10:45 The Center of Things 11:05
California Droams 11:35 Little University 12:00 Shesh-Tus 12:30

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Butterfly Kiss 5,
9:30 * Nolly et M. Arnaud 7 *
Coochman 7:15 * Through the Veil of Extle 9:30 G.G. Gil. Jerusalem Mail

Cochinal 7:13 x introdyn the vest of the xite 9:30 G.G. Gill. Jerusalem Mail (Maiha) x 6788448 Sleepers A Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 x Eddle Gilmmer Man 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 x Dregonheart 4:45, 7:15 x Fled 4:45, 7:15 x Daylight 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 JERUSALEM THE-ATER 20 Marcus St. x 5610011 Beyond the Clouds 9 x Breaking the Waves 9 RAV CHEN 1-7 x 6792799 Credit Card Reservations 6794477 Rev-Macher Building, 19 Ha'oman St. Talpiot Emma@Last Man Standing Basquiat 5, 7:30, 9:45 x Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 x The Milror Has Two Faces 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 x Bound@The Truth About Cats and Dogs 5, 7:30, 9:45 MEVASSERET ZION G.G. Gill. Gilmmer Man@Eddle 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

Gilmmer ManeEddle 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
SMADAR La Ceremonie 7:30, 10 *
Stealing Beauty 5:30 .
TEL AVV
CINEMATHEQUE Devarim 5, 7:30,

TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE Devarim 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Three Colours: White 5 * Reuven Shiloah 9:30 DIZENGOFF # 5101370 Beyond the Clouds Mulholland Falls 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 * Under Western Eyes 11 a.m., 3, 7:45 * Two Much: 1, 5, 10 GAT The Mirror Has Two Faces 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 GORDON Sense and Sensibility 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. HOD 1-4 * 5228226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * The Eighth Day5, 7:30, 10 * Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 * Gilmmer Man 5, 7:30, 10 * Ceremonie 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 * La Ceremonie 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:45, 10 * Antonia's Line 11 a.m., 5 * La Affina Elettive 1, 3, 7:30 * Steeling Beauty 11 a.m., 3, 5, 7:30, 10 * Steeling Beauty 11 a.m., 3, 5, 7:30, 10 * Steeling Beauty 11 a.m., 3, 5, 7:30, 10 * Trainspotting 1:15, 5:30, 10 G.G. PE'ER Daylight 5, 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Eddie 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Jude 10 RAV-CHEN * 5:282288 Dizengoff Center Long Kiss Goodnight@Last Man Standing@Bound 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Independence Day 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Jingle All the Way 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Jingle All the Way 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Lone Star 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 G.G. TEL AVIV # 5:281191 65 Pinsker St. Daylight 5, 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Gilmmer Man 5, 7:30 TEL AVIV # 5:281191 65 Pinsker St. Daylight 5, 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Gilmmer Man 5, 7:30 TEL AVIV # 5:281191 65 Pinsker St. Daylight 5, 7:30, 10 * Sleepers 4:30, 7:15, 10 * Gilmmer Man 5, 7:30 TEL AVIV MUSEUM Evertasting Joy 5, 8, 10 HAIFA CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI * 8325755

HAIFA Cinema café amami = 8325755

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI * 8325755
Stealing Beauty Summer in La
Goulette 7:15, 8:15 ATZMON
Daylighte Trainspotting 4:30, 7, 9:30 * The
Rockelindependence Day 4:15, 6:45,
9:15 CINEMATHEQUE The Death
Cottage 9:30 GLOBECITY Steepers
4:45, 7:15, 10 * Eddle Glimmer Man
4:45, 7:15 * Daylight 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 *
Dragonheart 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 MORIAH CAFE *8643654 Breeking the
Waves 6:45, 9:30 ORLY
8:381868 Emma 7, 9:15 PANORAMA
Steepers A Time to Kill 4:15, 6:45,
9:30 * The Eighth Day 4:30, 7, 9:30
RAV-GAT 1-2 ** 8874311 Long Kiss
Goodnight 4:30, 7, 9:15 * The Truth
About Cats and Dogs 4:45, 7, 9:15
RAV-MOR 1-7 ** 8416898 Long Kiss
Goodnight 4:30, 7, 9:15 * Emma®The
Truth About Cats and Dogs 4:45, 7,
9:16 * Kingpin 4:45, 7, 9:15 * The
Mitmor Has Two Faces 4:30, 7, 9:30 *

Hugo 13:00 Surprise Garden 13:15
Free Willy 13:40 Inspector Gadget
14:00 The Children from Oz 14:30
Cours Mario 15:00 The Center of
Things 15:15 Pink Panther Show 15:50 Ocean Girl 16:15 The Center of Things 16:35 Harry and the Hendersons 17:05 Little University 17:30 Shesh-Tus 18:00 Hugo 18:30 Loony Toons 18:40 Berenstein Bears 18:00 Little Mouse on the Prairie 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Rockets 18:00 Lime Mouse on the Frame 19:50 Three's Company 20:00 Rocko's Modern Life and Ren & Stimpy 20:25 Married With Children 20:50 Roseanne 21:15 Lois and Clark

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Riff Raff (1992) - Pseudo-documontary by Kenneth Loach which explores the fringes of London society on e building site. The film won the Cannes critic's award. With Robert Certyle and Emer McCourt (91 mins.) 23:40 Ariel (Finnish, 1988) - on out-of-work coal miner goes on e cross-country trip to the capital and finds love with a divorces. Directed by Ald Kaurismaki (69 mins.)

E DISCOVERY (8)

8:00 Open University: Service Challenge; Marketing Stretegy tor Small Businessee; Dilommas In Bueiness with Ilana Deyan 12:00 Okavango Magic – bird Ilie in the Okavango delta (rpt) 13:00 Beyond 2000 (rpt) 13:30 New World: Saving the Planet (rpt) 14:00 Open University (rpt) 16:00 Okavango Magic (rpt) 17:30 New World: Saving the Planet (rpt) 14:00 Open University (rpt) 18:00 Open University (rpt) 20:00 First Tuesday: A Footstep Away – new series of the best of British documentary films. This episode is about 100 million live mines scattered across the US 21:00 Great Palaces – Escorial Palace, Spain 21:30 Fork in the Road – Greece 22:00 Agatha's Curse – e look at breast cancer and ways of treating it 23:00 First Tuesday, part 1 (rpt) 00:00 Open University (rpt)

SUPER CHANNEL

8:00 Adventures 7:00 Executive Lifestyles 7:30 Travel Express 8:00 Today 10:00 Well Street Morning Reports 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 Wall Street Morning Reports 17:00 MSNBC — Tho Sito 19:00 National Geographic 19:00 Fashion File 19:30 The Ticket 20:00 The Selina Scott Show 21:00 Datelino 22:00 NHL Hockey 23:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:00 The Best of Late Night with Conan O'Brien 1:00 The Best of Later with Greg Kinnear 1:30 NBC News with Tom Brokaw 2:00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno 3:00 MSNBC Internight — live

STAR PLUS 9:00 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 6:30 Video Fashion News 7:00 Kate and Allie 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 8:30 Dynasty 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Buniyaad 11:30 Lifeline 12:00 Home and Away 12:30 Lost in Space 13:30 Black Stailion 14:00 Kato and Allie 14:30 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 15:00 Amul India Show 15:30 Star News In Hindi 16:00 Small Wonder 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Imitinan 17:30 Star News 18:00 Yes, Minister 19:30 Chicago Hope 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 X-Files 22:00 Star Trek 23:00 Quincy X-Files 22:00 Star Trek 23:00 Quincy 00:00 Oprah Winfrey 1:00 Barnaby Jones 2:00 Home and Away 2:30 The

■ CHANNEL 5

8:30 Budies in Motion 16:00 Buties in Motion 19:30 National League Soccer – Saturday's games 17:15 Women's Volleyball – Israel vs. Italy 18:00 Men's Volleyball – Israel vs. Poland 19:00 Touchdown 96 – NFL 21:00 Roundup the year in Israeli basketball 22:00 English League Soccer – reunding

EUROSPORT

9:30 The Olympic Games 10:00 Soccer: 1996 roundup 11:00 Bicycle

Racing: season review 13:00 Sports Magazine 13:30 Sid Jumping: World Cup, Germany (rpf) 15:00 Alpine Sking 16:00 Bilitards 17:30 Iron Men 18:30 Basketball: Show Game, Turkey World Cup Legends 1:00 Basketball: Show Game, Turkey

■ PRIME BPORTS

8:00 Tonnis: Greatest Grand Slam Matches of 1996 7:30 Equestrian: Castrol 1000 Gumeas 8:00 Cricket: India Tour of South Africa 19:00 Trane World Sport 17:00 Soccer: World Cup Hall of Fome 17:30 Asian Soccer Show 19:30 World Motorcycle Champion-ships 19:30 Spenish Soccer League 20:00 Cricket: India Tour of South Africa 21:00 NFL 22:30 World Cup of Golf 00:30 Soccer: Asian Club Champion-ship 3:30 Cricket: India Tour of South Africa

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:05 The Money Programme 10:15 The Money Programme (rpt) 11:30 Top Gear (rpt) 14:05 Assignment (rpt) 15:15 World Business Report 15:30 Asia Pacific Newshour 16:30 Film '98: Best British films of 1999 17:15 The Money Programme (rpt) 18:30 The Clothes Show (rpt) 19:30 Tomorrow's World (rpt) 22:05 The Money Programme 22:45 Building Sights 23:30 Holiday 00:00 World News and Business Report 2:10 World Review 1996

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day 9:30
Pinnacle Report (rpt) 8:30 World View
(rpt) 9:30 World Sport 11:30 CNN
Newsroom 12:30 Headline News
13:00 Business Dey 13:30 CNN
American Edition 13:45 O & A 14:00
Asian News 14:30 World Sport 15:00
Asian News 15:30 Bueiness Asia
16:00 Larry King Live (rpt) 17:30
World Sport (rpt) 18:30 CNN
Computer Connection 19:30 O & A
20:45 CNN American Edition 21:00
World Business Today 21:30 World
News 22:00 Larry King (rpt) 23:00
European News 23:30 Investigative
Reports 00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport 1:00 World News
Survey 2:30 Moneyline

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 9:30 CBS Weekend News 7:30 ABC World News 11:30 The Book Show 12:10 CBS 60 Minutes 13:30 Supermodels 15:30 1996 Year in Review 19:30 CBS Morning News 17:30 Target 19:30 Year in Review - politics 19:00 Live at Five 20:30 Supermodels 21:30 Sportline 22:30 Year in Review 1:30 CBS Evening News 2:30 ABC World News

RADIO

WOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Moming Concert 9:05
Raufavaara: Angel of Light Symphony
no 7 (Holsinid PO/Segerstam); works
by Thomas Portman, Piazzola, VillaLobos; contemporary works 12:00
Light Classical – singer Barbare
Hendricks In songs from Walt Disney
films; singer Frederica von Stade In
songs by Dave Brubeck 13:00 Mezzosoprano Frederica von Stade – Fauré:
Pelléas et Melisande (Toulouse soprano Frederica von Stade – Fauré:
Pelléas et Melisande (Toulouse
/Plasson); Bernstein: Arias and
-Barcarolles for mezzo-soprano, barlintone rand orch:: (Hampson/London
SO/Tilson Thomas) 14:09 Encore
15:00 Cycle of Works – Beethoven's
piano concertos 16:00 Early music
17:00 Etnahta – live broadcast from
Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem.
Allon Goldstein (plano). D. Scarlatti: 2
Sonetas K11 end K169; Mozart: Rondo In A minor K511; Debussy: Images book 2; Ben-Zion Orgad; Toccata (1995); Liszt: Sonata in B minor 19:00 Rainbow of Sounds 20:05 A Matter of Agreement 23:00 Just Jazz

CINEMA

Last Men Standing 9:15 * The Quest 5, 7, 9:15 * Jingle All the Way 5, 7 RAV-OR 1-3 * 8246553 The Mirror Has Two Faces 4:30, 7, 9:30 * Basquist 4:45, 7, 9:15 * Bound 7, 9:15 AFULA RAV CHEN * 6424047 Daylight@Long Kiss Goodnight 7, 9:30 * Splittre Grill 9:30 * Jingle All the Way 7 ARAD STAR The Mirror Has Two Faces@Gilmmer Man 7:15, 9:45 * Dragonheart 7:15, 9:45 * Dragonheart 7:15, 9:45 AS AS ADOD G.G. Gill * 8647202 Long Kiss Goodnight@The Mirror Has Two Faces 4:45, 7:15, 10 * Eddie@Dragonheart t@Two Much 5, 7:30, 10 & Kingpin 5, 7:30 ASHKELON G.G. Gill * 729977 Stealing Beauty

5,7:30, 10 * Kingpin 5,7:30

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G.G. Gill. * 729977 Stealing Beauty

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Way 5 * The Mirror Has Two Faces

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Daylight@Glimmer Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 *

Daylight@Glimmer Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 *

* Sleepers 4, 7, 9:45 * Kingpin 5,

7:30, 9:45 * Last Man Standing 9:45

* Jack 5, 7:30

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@Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 * A Time to

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Daylight@Steading Beauty 5, 7:30, 10 *

Sleepers 7, 10 * The Nutty Professor

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Long Kiss Goodnight 5, 7:30, 9:45 *

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9:45 * The Mirror Has Two Faces 4:45,

7:15, 9:45 * Jingle All the Way@Matlida

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Dragonheart 5, 7:30, 10 * The Mirror
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* Spitific Grill 9:45 * Kingpin 5, 7:30
Phone reservations: Tel Aviv 5252244
Phone reservations: Halfa 728878
All times are 0.m. Unless otherwise All times are p.m. unless otherwise Indicated.

India gives Weizman rousing reception

NEW DELHI

will host a state banquet.

in Weizman's honor.

Weizman, said.

in-law, Sir Edward Lathieus, in the

The Indians are clearly going all

out to extend a warm welcome.

The visit is the formal seal in

Indian-Israell relations which are now utterly cormal." Shankar

Meoon, India's ambassador to

Israel, who is accompanying

to meet with Weizman's hureau

chief, Arye Shumer, to discuss the

fate of six young Israelis being held in Indian jails on drug

charges. Weizman reportedly

on humanitarian grounds. The meeting was arranged by Menon.

would like to secure their release

Late last night, Khalap was due

A TUMULTUOUS crowd of local intersections. "India welcomes photographers and journalists was on hand as President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma landed yesterday afternoon at a New Delhi air base, on the first leg - of a state visit to India.

As the presidential couple was welcomed by Justice Minister Ramakant Khalap and garlands of fresh flowers were strung round their necks according to Hindu ritual, the photographers time and again "ordered" another handshake or a better angle for their shots. "This is an indication of the interest the Indians have in Israel." Weizman said later, and, indeed, the visit - the first of its kind by an Israeli head of state in India - has aroused a great deal of interest in the Indian media, with sympathetic portraits of Weizman as a peacemaker in the Middle East.

At the air base the staff of the embassy turned out in force and children of embassy personnel stood waving flags of both nations. Then the Weizmans sped off in the presidential motorcade. accompanied by Indian security officers packed into Indian-made "Ambassador" cars of the style immortalized in foreign movies of the Raj in the Forties.

Along the route, Israeli and Indian flags flew in the breeze while giant posters of Ezer and Reuma Weizman graced central



Driver Yosef Shamishi places the No. 100 sign above his window before allowing Tel Aviv passengers to board the last regular-service Egged bus bound for Cairo yesterday.

(Dana Sternan/Israel Sum)

Last Egged bus leaves for Cairo

TRANSPORT Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday began a frenzied effort to save the bus route to Cairo, but Egged, which sent what was to have been its last bus yesterday, said that Levy's efforts are misdirected and late.

According to an agreement between Israel and Egypt, each has the option of choosing a company to run a bus route between the two countries. In a tender five years ago, Egged won the Israeli concession, while an Egyptian company, East

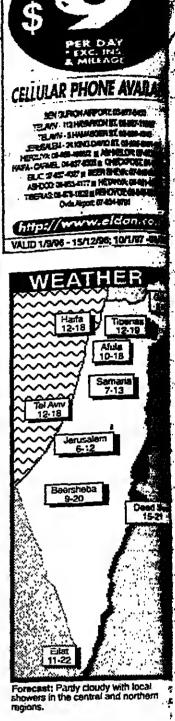
Delta, holds the Egyptian rights to the route. When the route was initiated, it was highly profitable, with large numbers of Israelis who

HAJM SHAPIRO wanted to travel to Egypt. In recent years, how-ever, there have been fewer and fewer passengers. According to Egged spokesman Ron Ratner, the company loses NIS 3,000 on every run. As a result, Egged notified the Transport Ministry and East Delta of its intentions to stop

the route at the end of the year. According to Levy's media adviser Yitzhak Rath, the announcement by Egged is simply a ploy to increase the subsidy paid to it by the gov-emment. Rath said the route to Egypt is one of

the many covered under the subsidy agreement between the bus cooperative and the government. He added Levy has asked Egged to give the ministry a list of its money-losing routes. which the ministry would then consider transferring to another operator.

Rath said Levy asked for an urgeot meeting between representatives of the Transport Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Supervisor of Road Transport. The object of the meeting would be to find some way of retaining the route by Sunday, when the service is sched-



Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Chance dra ing, the winning cards were nine of spades, the ace of hex the seven of diamonds and a nine of clubs.

Parents ask public's help in finding Adi Ya'acobi

POLICE are repeating their call to the public for help in locating Adi Ya'acohi, 17. who disappeared from her Tel Aviv home on December 13.

After interviewing her friends and family, scouring clubs, pubs, and other sites Adi frequented, as well as following up on information from the public, police still have no leads on her whereabouts. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

At a meeting with Adi's parents - Berry and Yossi Ya'acobi -Kahalani said he would ensure that police do everything possible to fmd the teenager and "would not rest until light is shed on the mystery.

A tearful Betty Ya acobi pleaded with the public, via the press, yes-terday to do everything possible to help her find her missing daughter.

Anyone who saw her on December 13, oear Dizeogoff Center, please get in touch with us," she said.

Adi was last seen on Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street on the afternoon of her disappearance. She had left home after lunch and was on her



Adi Ya'acobi

way to visit a friend in Netanya. She had told friends she would hitch a ride there.

Adi is 1.65 meters tall, slim, has short brown hair and brown eyes, wears glasses and has a pierced upper lip. Anyone with information is asked to phone the Hayarkon youth officer Shlomit Hirtzberg at (03)-564-4226 or (03)-564-4219.

THE Supreme Court yesterday upheld the acquittal of former northern district police chief Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot, on charges

of bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and abosing his position. Ganot was indicted in the Nazareth District Court for having allegedly taken bribes from a local contractor, Subhi Tanos. According to the indictment, Tanos gave Ganot several favors over the years, such as painting his house for a fraction of the normal cost and throwing an expensive party in honor of his appointment as district police chief. In

exchange, the indictment said, Ganot persuaded a subordinate oot to run for a position oo Nazareth's Greek Orthodox executive committee, thereby leaving the field clear for Tanos's brother, and interfered in an investigation against Tanos by preventing his arrest and later getting the file against him closed.

The district court ruled that all these favors were of the type which is oormal between friends, and therefore there was oo criminal intent involved. The state then appealed this ruling.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg Ya'acov Kedmi and Yitzhak Zamir agreed with the state that

Man gets life

for strangling

wife

A LOD man was sentenced to life

imprisonment yesterday by the Tel

Aviv District Court for strangling

Alexander Elyabayev was sen-

tenced for the March 26 slaying of his wife, Yulia. The couple had

immigrated here in 1995 and were

living in a Lod immigrants hostel

with Yulia's daughter when their

marriage began to break up over

Yulia's desire to buy an apartment.

move, cleared out their joint bank

account and took his wife's pass-

port and other documents, saying

he would return them if she can-

celled divorce proceedings.

Elyabayev, who is not Jewish,

feared a divorce would end in his

He was found wandering

around the Lod police station on

the night of March 26, and told

police: "I have a dead wife at

According to the indictment,

after seeing his wife emerge from

a car with another man that day, he

first bought her flowers for her

birthday and celebrated it with her

and her daughter, had sex with his

wife, and then confronted her

about the other man, accusing her

of prostitution. When she went to

bed, he strangled her.

losing all his rights here.

Her husband, who opposed the

his wife to death on her birthday.

EVELYN GORDON

Supreme Court upholds Ganot's acquittal

the two men's friendship was not a disinterested relationship: Tanos wanted Ganot's services, and Ganot did not hesitate to supply them. Thus the district court's first reason could not stand up, they said. However, they contin-

ued, the lower court also said there was insufficient evidence to prove that Tanos actually did Ganot any financial favors, and this was enough to justify an acquittal.

The state also appealed Ganot's

acquittal on charges of abusing his position by making a subordinate do personal work for his family, such as chauffeuring his wife and watching his children. The lower court had said this crime only refers to abuse of one's position vis-a-vis the public, rather than vis-a-vis a subordinate.















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Pinhasi indicted for campaign fraud

SHAS MK Raphael Pinhasi was indicted in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of falsely listing ledgers, attempted fraud, false declarations and conspiracy to commit a crime. Yehezkiel Eshayak and Shmuel David also were indicted on these charges, which relate to the 1988 general elections and the 1989 local council elections.

At the time, Pinhasi, whose immunity was only recently lifted by the present government, was the Shas treasurer and the party's finance committee chairman. He managed all Shas accounts, accord- avoid paying taxes.

ing in the charge sheet. Eshayak was the party secretary-general, while David was an intermediary

between Shas and its accountants. The first charge relates to payments made to Shas workers during the general elections and tax evasion. Pinhasi is accused of listing false expenses and payments to workers in order to mislead the

State Comptroller. The second count also relates to Shas workers' payments during the 1989 local council elections. Workers' payments were not listed in Shad account books, allegedly to

Mordechai accepts

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai accepted Maj.-Gen. Oren territories yesterday, after Mordechai's attempt to dissuade him failed.

will - amidst worry over the future of the IDF and the peace process were I to be a central player - to request the defense minister to grant my request and discharge me from the IDF," reads the letter Shahor submitted to Mordechai last week after 32 years of IDF service.

talks without getting clearance to do so.

Shahor's resignation

Shahor's resignation as the coordinator for government activities in the "I appreciate and value the desire expressed for me to continue to serve in the IDF, but under the circumstances I decided of my own free

Mordechai voiced his sorrow over Shahor's resignation. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu suspended Shahor on November 1. after Shahor briefed opposition leader Shimon Peres on the peace

Magen David Adom workers resume sanctions

home."